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Britain rejects MNF pullout call

LONDON (R) — The British government Monday rejected calls to pull its 100-man peace-keeping unit out of Lebanon as politicians voiced concern about a full-scale conflict between U.S. and Syrian forces. The opposition Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman, Denis Healey, told parliament that the United States was embarked on a catastrophic course in Lebanon. He accused the U.S. government of forming a military axis in the Middle East with Israel against Syria and the Soviet Union. The renewed concern about British involvement came after two U.S. planes were downed on raids over Lebanon Sunday and American troops in the Multi-National Force (MNF) came under heavy fire during the night. But Foreign Office Minister Malcolm Rifkind insisted British troops would stay while they continued to play a useful role. He said it would be harmful for Britain to pull out the unit unilaterally.

U.N. seeks halt to Lebanon hostilities

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar called Monday for a general halt to hostilities in Lebanon lest the situation there lead to a major conflict. In a statement he said: "I now earnestly appeal to all the parties involved to refrain forthwith from the use of force." He stressed the world "all." Meanwhile, in a letter to the president of the U.N. Security Council, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam referred to military actions by the United States and Israel which he termed a threat to international peace. "I request you to take the appropriate measures to halt the hostile policies pursued by the United States of America in Lebanon and the Middle East," he said.

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King sends good wishes to Finland

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to the Finnish President Mauno Koivisto on the occasion of his country's independence day. In his cable the King wished the Finnish leader and his people further progress and prosperity.

Khaled Al Hassan arrives in S. Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy arrived in Saudi Arabia Sunday night to discuss the evacuation of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his men from north Lebanon, the Saudi Press Agency reported. It said Khaled Al Hassan, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee told Saudi Television his visit was aimed at "securing the safe evacuation of Arafat and his men from Tripoli," the north Lebanon port where they have been under siege by Syrian-backed rebels.

Saudi team begins German arms talks

BONN (R) — A Saudi Arabian military delegation Monday began a series of visits to West German arms factories and talks with Bonn officials over possible weapons purchases. The visit, arranged during Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Middle East tour this summer, was likely to stir debate in West Germany over whether Saudi Arabia is an "area of tension." Weapons sales to such areas are forbidden under government guidelines.

Gemayel returns to Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel returned here Monday after talks in Washington with President Ronald Reagan. Beirut Radio reported. During his three-day official visit, President Gemayel discussed the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and extension of the state's authority to all parts of the country. The broadcast gave no details of President Gemayel's return to Beirut, where the airport has been closed for almost a week.

Luce in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce arrived in Kuwait Monday for talks on the Gulf war, bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, Kuwaiti officials said. He did not believe violence in Lebanon would solve problems where there was a need to concentrate on reconciliation.

Walesa, urges West to lift sanctions

GDANSK (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa appealed to the West Monday to lift economic sanctions imposed on Poland in retaliation for the Communist authorities' 1981 crackdown on the free trade union. He told a press conference in this Baltic port that the sanctions had been a propaganda success but that continuing them could cause the country serious economic damage.

NCC denounces U.S.-Israel pact, Lebanon attacks

By Lamis K. Andoni and Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Consultative Council (NCC) Monday condemned the recently announced political-military alliance between the United States and Israel and denounced Sunday's U.S. air raids against Syrian positions in Lebanon.

A statement issued by the council at its regular session Monday said U.S.-Israeli relations have reached a "dangerous and decisive stage," by implementing the alliance agreement between the two countries which will lead to a "dangerous Arab and international political situation which is more fatal than the one international community faced during World War II."

The statement accused the U.S. of "ceasing to play the role" of a mediator in the Middle East and "has become a part of anti-Arab aggression forces" in the region.

The NCC statement, which was based on a proposal by council member Mahmoud Al Kayed, also said the U.S.-Israeli alliance "has diminished the chances for peace in the region."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who visited the U.S. last month, announced after his talks

with President Ronald Reagan that the U.S. and Israel have reached agreement on a political-military alliance to counter what he described as "growing Soviet influence" in the Middle East.

A senior Israeli official was quoted as saying Sunday that last week's Israeli attacks and the U.S. raids Sunday against Syrian positions in Lebanon were part of a "joint U.S.-Israeli campaign" to eliminate the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

In discussions during Monday's NCC session before the unanimous approval of the resolution denouncing the U.S.-Israeli alliance and the attacks, several council members criticised the American policy in the Middle East.

NCC member Jawdat Al-Shoub said that the U.S.-Israeli alliance "is not a new issue and unless Arab countries overcome their differences and work towards

unity, chances are that they will be facing aggressions of various nature at a time when denunciations and condemnations would be worthless."

Suleiman Irtemeh pointed out that the American air raids pose a threat to the entire Arab Nation. "We in this country," he said, "cannot remain silent while a brotherly country is being attacked."

King's move praised

Also during Monday's NCC session, council member Hani Abu Hileh praised the "honorable invitation" extended by His Majesty King Hussein to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat besieged in the north Lebanese city of Tripoli by Syrian-backed dissidents.

Mr. Abu Hileh expressed appreciation for the King's stand towards the Palestinian people and cause and welcomed Mr. Arafat to Jordan.

In an interview with the New York Times Friday, King Hussein described Mr. Arafat as the "legitimate leader of the Palestinian people and if he leaves Tripoli he is welcome to come to Amman."

Given the struggle Mr. Arafat is going through in Tripoli under the rebel siege, the King said, "I will put no conditions on him."

NCC recommends centralisation of agricultural decision making, page 2

Weinberger says Marines may shift Beirut positions

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Monday that new ways were being sought to improve the security of American Marines in Lebanon, including shifting them from their current position at Beirut airport.

He told reporters while reviewing U.S. troops on manoeuvres in West Germany that the United States had substantial firepower in ships and aircraft at sea in the Mediterranean to protect the Marine peacekeeping contingent at

the airport. But he added: "We are looking for other means to do that, including improved and different positions."

8 Marines killed

Eight U.S. Marines were killed Sunday night when shells and rockets rained down on their headquarters at Beirut airport in an

(Continued on page 3)

Moscow calls U.S. raid banditry, supports Syria

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Monday denounced Sunday's U.S. air attack in Lebanon as banditry and pledged continuing aid for Syria and leftist Arab forces.

Soviet Armed Forces Chief of Staff Nikolai Ogarkov and Kremlin spokesman Leonid Zamyatin both condemned the raid at a press conference called to set out Moscow's response to the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe.

Syria: Pilot will not be freed before U.S. pullout

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Monday it would hand over a captured American pilot only when U.S. forces left Lebanon and warned it would continue to fire on U.S. planes flying over its bases in Lebanon.

A senior Syrian military source said the captured airman, identified as Lieutenant Robert Goodman, would not be returned until "the end of the Lebanese war and the departure of American forces from Lebanon."

The source also gave the first Syrian confirmation that a second airman had died in Sunday's air strike.

He said the body of the airman, identified phonetically as Lieutenant Mark Lang, would be handed back as soon as arrangements were made with the U.S. embassy in Damascus.

The two men were piloting a U.S. Navy A-6 "Intruder" which was shot down while on a bombing raid against Syrian anti-aircraft

positions in the central Lebanese mountains. State-run Damascus radio said U.S. overflights of its positions in Lebanon were a "provocation" and signalled Syria would continue to fire at any planes which made such flights.

"The flying of American planes over Syrian positions is a premeditated provocative action, and Syrian forces have no alternative but to defend themselves against any provocation or aggression."

The broadcast appeared to be referring to reconnaissance flights which the U.S. navy regularly makes over Syrian positions in central Lebanon.

The radio noted that President Ronald Reagan had said the United States was not seeking confrontation with Syria.

"But this requires proof and effective implementation, since Syria does not want to be involved in a military conflict with the United States," the broadcast said.

Shamir denies secret accord

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday sought to allay Israeli public concern over growing military involvement with Washington, saying he made no commitments during talks with President Reagan last week.

Addressing the Knesset (parliament), Mr. Shamir brushed aside speculation in the foreign and Israeli press that he had agreed to U.S.-American military collaboration, aimed particularly at getting Syria out of Lebanon.

He was constantly heckled by the small new Communist Party faction, who shouted "tell us all the truth" and "what did you really promise the Americans."

Mr. Shamir said: "Many untrue, baseless rumours have been circulating concerning my talks with President Reagan in Washington."

"In these talks, Israel did not take on itself any military commitments and no agreements were reached which were not disclosed to the public."

The opposition Labour Party has come out against strategic co-operation with Washington. Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban of the opposition Labour Party said Israel "should get out of all of Lebanon as quickly as possible."

He said: "Israel has only one interest in Lebanon and that is making certain that its northern border is secure from attacks from South Lebanon."

Top Soviet aides say Geneva talks a dead letter

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet military and civilian officials said Monday talks on limiting nuclear missiles in Europe were now a dead letter and accused Washington of trying to sabotage separate talks on limiting strategic weapons.

Chief of Staff Nikolai Ogarkov and two senior Kremlin aides spoke at a press conference called to set out Moscow's position after the start of deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe.

One of the officials, Communist Party international information chief Leonid Zamyatin, also said President Yuri Andropov was recovering from a cold and denied his three-month absence was due

Beirut explosion kills 14

BEIRUT (R) — A massive car bomb exploded outside an apartment block in south Beirut Monday, killing up to 14 people and wounding more than 80 others, state-run radio said.

The blast, in a heavily-populated Muslim area of the city, set fire to stores of paint and turpentine in a building across the street and firemen fought for hours to douse the flames.

A group calling itself the "Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners" called a news agency in Beirut to claim responsibility for what it called a "barbecue operation." There was no confirmation of the claim.

The front said the operation was a warning to all who call for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Syria must leave first, it declared.

Local resident Hassan Youssef, who was in a nearby building at the time of the blast, said some of his family were killed and wounded.

"They say men do not cry. Believe me, I cry," he said. "Why do they do this? We have no enemies here. There are no guns here. We have nothing here," he said in anger and bewilderment.

"Why? because we are Muslim?"

Muslims have been in the forefront of demands that Israel should pull its troops out of Lebanon.

Security sources estimated the car contained 150 kilograms of high explosive.

Beirut Radio quoted civil defence staff working at the scene of the blast as saying 14 had died, although security sources reported 10 had died.

The fire spread to surrounding buildings, trapping people on the upper stories. The heat of the blaze and the thick smoke delayed rescue work.

Security sources said the casualty list would probably rise.

Firemen were still trying to control the fire in a two-storey building two hours after the blaze began, eyewitnesses said.

Scores of civil defence workers, some heavily bloodstained, swarmed the area helping with rescue or fire control.

The explosion, which shook south Beirut shortly after 8 a.m. (0600 GMT), blew off the balconies and some of the facade of a nine-storey block across the street from the burning two-storey building.

A crowd of residents, kept back by French soldiers wielding bayoneted automatic rifles, cheered when rescuers brought out a baby from the nine-storey building.

The child was limp but apparently alive.

Beirut has suffered almost daily bomb attacks, but most of them have been smaller and have been set outside shops at night after the 8 p.m. curfew.

Warsaw Pact ministers gather in Sofia

BELGRADE (R) — Warsaw Pact defence ministers gathered in Sofia Monday for their first joint assessment of the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe and last month's suspension of the Geneva medium-range missile talks.

The meeting was called amid growing East-West tension caused by the arms build-up in Europe and escalation of the fighting in Lebanon, where U.S. planes have attacked positions held by Soviet-backed Syrian troops.

The official Bulgarian news agency BTA reported the arrival of ministers from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania, to join Soviet Defence Minister Dimitri Ustinov who flew in Sunday.

All were met by Bulgarian Defence Minister General Dobri Dzhurov. The commander-in-chief of the Communist pact's forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, is also attending.

BTA gave no further details of the meeting but western diplomats in Sofia believed it would begin Monday afternoon and continue Tuesday.

The Eastern bloc has con-



His Majesty King Hussein bids farewell to Turkish President Kenan Evren who left Amman Monday after an official three-day visit (Petra photo)

Evren ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish President Kenan Evren left Amman Monday after a three-day state visit to Jordan during which he held talks on issues of mutual concern, and regional problems including Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war.

President Evren was seen off at Amman airport by His Majesty King Hussein, His Highness Prince Mohammad, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh, National Consultative Council Speaker Suleiman Arar, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members, the dean of diplomatic corps in Jordan and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

On departure, President Evren sent the following cable to the King:

"As I leave the Jordanian air space, I would like to extend to you, dear Brother, my sincere thanks and deep gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to me and to the members of my delegation.

"I shall always cherish the pleasant memories of my stay in your beautiful country and look forward to further continue our dia-

logue and to see Your Majesty and Her Majesty Queen Noor in Turkey.

"On this occasion, I would like to reiterate my best wishes for your personal health and happiness as well as for the progress and prosperity of the brotherly Jordanian nation."

Abu Odeh praises ties

Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh said President Evren's visit to Jordan is a "significant stage on the path to the development of bilateral relations," and stressed that relations between Jordan and Turkey are "excellent and are characterised by mutual respect and identical views on most issues under consideration."

In his address to a Turkish press team, which accompanied President Evren, Mr. Abu Odeh said the strength of relations between the two countries arises from several factors, the most important of which are their being part of the same strategic region and the mutual heritage and common Islamic culture.

The challenges facing both Turkey and Jordan, Mr. Abu Odeh said, is the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and other Arab territories, and "Turkey can play a special role contributing to a peaceful settlement in the region and

the return of Jerusalem to its lawful owners, as preservation of its Arab-Islamic identity is a common responsibility."

On the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Abu Odeh said that Iran's persistence in continuing the war poses a threat to the security and stability of the region, which has created long-standing factors for a long-term conflict the peoples of the region have invariably tried to avoid, as it obviously threatens their well-being and prosperity.

U.S.-Israeli pact condemned

Commenting on the new strategic agreement between the U.S. and Israel, Mr. Abu Odeh pointed out that it will drive the region into international polarisation, and undermine peace prospects in the area.

Answering a question on the prosperity modern Jordan is enjoying, Mr. Abu Odeh said, "such prosperity is due in the first place to the security and political stability the country enjoys, and the balanced economic system, based on credibility in dealing with other nations in addition to Jordan's educational and training policies for its citizens."

During President Evren's visit, Jordan and Turkey signed an agreement on technical and economic cooperation.

'Eurogroup' to discuss East-West ties

BRUSSELS (R) — Defence ministers of 11 West European countries Monday opened the first round of NATO ministerial meetings since new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles arrived in Europe.

Prospects for improving East-West relations in spite of the Soviet walkout from U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile talks in Geneva were expected to top the agenda of Atlantic alliance defence and foreign ministers, diplomats said.

The Europeans want the meetings to send a clear signal to Moscow that the West remains ready

for dialogue on arms control and broader East-West cooperation while maintaining a strong defence.

The "Eurogroup" session, covering all European alliance members except France, Spain and Iceland, began after NATO military chiefs heard an intelligence report on the transfer of Western high technology to the Soviet bloc and Warsaw Pact preparations for siting Soviet SS-21 and SS-23 missiles in Eastern Europe.

Soviet President Yuri Andropov said last month the new missiles would be sited in East Germany and Czechoslovakia as part

of the Soviet response to NATO's medium-range missile deployments.

Military sources said the European ministers would consider the idea of merging the interrupted Geneva talks on medium-range missiles with the U.S.-Soviet talks on strategic arms as a way of getting Moscow back to the negotiating table.

But diplomats said it should be left to the Soviet Union, which broke off the Geneva talks, to say in what future forum it was prepared to negotiate. There was no question of the West taking such an initiative, they said.

Poland arrests 'U.S. spies'

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities disclosed the arrest of two alleged U.S. spies Monday and accused the Warsaw embassies of some NATO countries of conducting intelligence activities and subversion in Poland.

Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak told parliament the men were Jacek Jurzak, a Polish scientist living in Bielsko-Biala near the Czechoslovak border, and Norbert Adamachek, a West German visiting Poland.

Gen. Kiszczak said the activities of the men, arrested last month while working for U.S. intelligence, were "dangerous and extremely harmful."

They will be tried for espionage and risk the death penalty if convicted, he added.

Their capture followed the arrest of Bytom in southern Poland in August of a woman, also alleged to be working for U.S. intelligence.

Gen. Kiszczak, who read a report on the overall security situation in Poland since martial law was lifted in July, said Mr. Adamachek used his trips to Poland on behalf of his West German employers to carry out espionage activities.

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Habib Chatti stresses need for Islamic unity

Delegates consult in Dhaka on 14th OIC conference eve

DHAKA (R) — Muslim delegates Monday started intensive consultations on key Middle East issues as they gathered for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference meeting which opens in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka Tuesday.

A spokesman for the five-day meeting told Reuters 33 delegations had so far arrived for the 14th OIC conference, which is expected to focus on developments in Lebanon, highlighted by U.S. air attacks on Syrian positions there.

The split in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Iran-Iraq conflict, the declaration of independence by Turkish Cypriots and the continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan are also expected to be high on the agenda.

More than 15 foreign ministers are expected to be among the del-

egates, the spokesman said. They include Kenal Atakol, foreign minister of the self-proclaimed state of Turkish Cypriots.

A senior Turkish-Cypriot official told Reuters Mr. Atakol was engaged in intensive consultations ahead of the meeting, apparently as part of his administration's attempts to win support from fellow Muslim leaders.

But conference sources said a majority of the 41-member body, including Saudi Arabia, opposed admission of Turkish Cypriots to the OIC as representatives of an independent state.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Shamsud Doha met Monday to discuss the meeting's draft agenda, officials said.

OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti stressed on his arrival Monday the need for unity in the Islamic world and said he hoped delegates would adopt resolutions tackling challenges to Muslim countries.

He has severely criticised the new strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, branding it a threat to Islamic states.

Mr. Chatti flew in from Jeddah and was met by Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha.

The OIC includes 18 African states, and the question of independence for Namibia (South

West Africa) is likely to be another major topic at this week's meeting.

The conference spokesman said the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which has been waging a guerrilla campaign for political autonomy in the southern Philippines, was expected to send representatives.

Members of the fragmented Afghan guerrilla movement, opposed to the Soviet-backed Kabul government, will also lobby for support from OIC members.

Mr. Chatti described the meeting as important and noted it was taking place in the capital of the world's second most populous Muslim nation.

'Multinational force losing neutrality'

RABAT (R) — The peace-keeping force in Lebanon has abandoned its neutrality, threatening to internationalise the conflict, the pro-government Moroccan daily *Rissalat Al-Oumma* said Monday.

It said Sunday's U.S. air strike on Syrian positions indicated that members of the Multinational Force "seem to have abandoned neutrality ... to become parties directly concerned in the Lebanon war."

By Paul Eedle
Rabat

QOM, Iran — The world may think Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is growing old at 81, but it is as well to remember that Iran's supreme leader has an 87-year-old elder brother living quietly in the holy city of Qom.

Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideh is a religious scholar who had his share of conflict with the monarchy overthrown by Mr. Khomeini's Islamic revolution in 1979, but he has not played a prominent part in politics since the revolution.

He spends his time reading, praying and receiving visitors at his brother's old house off a narrow alley in Qom.

Sitting cross-legged on a thin cushion on the floor, dressed in black turban and brown cloak, Ayatollah Pasandideh talked to Reuters about his family and the years when he gave his brother some of his first lessons in Islamic theology.

In front of him on the floor of the small room, furnished only with carpets and cushions, stood

Egypt urges U.S. restraint

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, among Washington's closest Arab allies, renewed an appeal for U.S. restraint in the Middle East Monday following the U.S. raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon and shelling of American Marines there.

Egypt's President's Hosni Mubarak pleaded with the United States last month to exercise restraint in dealing with Syria.

Asked by reporters Monday if Egypt now felt its appeal had been ignored, Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali replied: "It was the Pentagon's view that it should retaliate against breaking of the ceasefire. We still call for restraint and no further escalation."

Mr. Ali also said the United States had assured Egypt in the past 24 hours that its new strategic co-operation agreement with Israel would not impede its search for Middle East peace.

Mr. Ali spoke to reporters after a meeting of the cabinet security group chaired by President Hosni

Mubarak and attended by key aides including Prime Minister Fuad Mohieddin and Defence Minister Field Marshal Mohamed Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala.

Mr. Mubarak called the meeting to consider the new flare-up in Lebanon and the U.S.-Israeli accord on closer military and political ties, reached in Washington last Tuesday by President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Sunday, Mr. Mubarak's Foreign Affairs Adviser Osama Baz and Egypt's ambassador in Washington, Ashraf Ghorbal, met U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to convey Egyptian concern.

Mr. Ali said Egypt subsequently received assurances the U.S. would continue trying to make progress with Mr. Reagan's September 1982 Middle East peace plan and that it valued its relations with Arab countries.

The U.S. special Middle East envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, is ex-

pected in Cairo Tuesday with a message to Mr. Mubarak from Mr. Reagan conveying further assurances. Mr. Ali told reporters he was not sure exactly when Mr. Rumsfeld would arrive.

Mr. Mubarak and other ranking officials in Egypt, which is one of Washington's closest U.S. allies, have said they await details on precisely what Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shamir agreed.

They have added that, if preliminary reports are correct, it poses a new obstacle to the U.S. sponsored peace process begun with the late Anwar Sadat's journey to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

The Egyptian press has been hostile, with the mass-circulation *Al-Akhar* saying Monday: "By entering into strategic co-operation with Israel, the United States declares its approval of Shamir's reckless policies."

U.S. will quit U.N. if Israel is expelled

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said the United States would quit the United Nations if Israel were ever expelled from the international organisation.

"Just so no one gets any ideas, let me be blunt. If Israel is ever forced to leave the U.N., the United States and Israel will leave together," Mr. Reagan said.

The president made his comments during a brief appearance at a Jewish community centre in nearby Rockville, Maryland.

"Israel has a friend in America and good friends stand together," he said adding that the bonds between the two countries "are growing stronger and they must not and will never be broken."

Anonymous pro-Arafat aide meets delegates for Islamic conference

DHAKA (R) — A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday urged Arab countries to unite in thwarting what he called a foreign-backed conspiracy against the Palestine cause.

A PLO delegate to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference meeting which opens in Dhaka Tuesday said the rebellion against PLO chief Yasser Arafat was not a mutiny but "a foreign-hatched plot to slander the Palestinian people and liquidate their cause."

Mr. Arafat and his supporters are currently awaiting evacuation from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli where they are under siege by Syrian-backed PLO rebels.

The delegate, who spoke to reporters on condition he not be identified, said the rebellion served U.S. and Israeli plans to remove the PLO from the Middle East equation.

He said the PLO would ask foreign ministers at the meeting to implement earlier OIC decision to back the Palestinians' struggle for their own state and remove Jerusalem from Israeli control.

The PLO would also ask Muslim countries for about \$40 million in aid for Palestinians in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, he said.

The delegate said an agreement drawn up by Syrian and Saudi Arabia to end the PLO clashes in Lebanon should be respected so Tripoli could be spared further

destruction and casualties.

Mr. Arafat would not leave the city until all his men had been evacuated safely as stipulated in the accord. "But if the agreement is violated, we will fight to the very end and Arafat will remain with his fighters because he is their commander-in-chief," he said.

Mr. Arafat planned to attend the Islamic heads-of-state meeting due to convene in Morocco next month said the Dhaka meeting was expected to express support for the Syrian-Saudi accord but would refrain from denouncing the anti-Arafat rebels.

"The ministers are likely to issue an appeal urging unity of Palestinian ranks and world support for the Palestine cause," they said.

Japanese tanker loaded despite ban

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese tanker has loaded a cargo of oil at Iran's Kharg Island in the Gulf despite a ban on Japanese-owned or crewed ships taking on crude there, industry sources here said Monday.

The sources said 235,000-tonne Shinsen Maru was the first Japanese vessel to take on crude at the island since the Japan shipowners' association and the Japan seamen's union imposed the ban late last month because ships' safety could not be assured.

Association and union spokesmen said the ban, imposed after Iraqi forces at war with Iran sank two Greek ships near Iranian Gulf ports last week, had not been lifted.

The sources said the Shinsen Maru had left the island's terminal

but they did not know where it was now. The ship's owners Shihwa Kaisha Ltd and its charterer Maruzen Oil Co. Ltd, refused to comment.

On Friday the owners said they had received permission from an unidentified authority for the Shinsen Maru to take on crude at Kharg Island but refused to give details.

Another Japanese shipping firm, Kyoei Tanker Co. Ltd, said on Friday it had sent a 220,000-tonne vessel to collect crude oil from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait instead of Kharg Island.

The sources said other Japanese tankers were sailing for Sri Lanka and in the southeast of the Gulf to await further orders.

They said some Japanese oil traders had chartered a few non-

Japanese tankers heading for the Gulf despite higher charges and war risk tariffs due to the danger of Iraqi attacks.

Japan imports about 460,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Iran under current direct deal contracts. Oil traders said no importers had revised or cancelled contracts with the national Iranian oil company since the ban was imposed.

They said that when contracts for about 230,000 barrels a day expire at the end of this month Japanese importers were likely to buy spot crude instead of renewing their contracts.

But they said this is because spot market prices were falling, not because of the ban on loading at Kharg Island.

Ayatollah Khomeini's elder brother reminisces about early days

By Paul Eedle
Rabat

two piles of books and an old transistor radio. In one corner was spread his prayer mat.

He said that his brother Ruhollah, who was born on the 20th Jumada Al-Thani, according to the Islamic calendar (Sept. 24, 1902), was the youngest child of a family of three sons and three daughters. Pasandideh said that all but he and Ruhollah were now dead.

Ruhollah was only a few months old when his father, the leading cleric in the provincial town of Khomein, was murdered by tribal bandits. Pasandideh, who was born in the Islamic year 1313 (the Christian year 1896) said:

"His aunt came to live with his widowed mother to help bring up the children, and the family employed the wife of one of their armed guards as a wet-nurse for the infant Ruhollah."

"There was turmoil in Iran, robbery and looting were common, and in cities and villages they used to rob travellers. So everyone had to be armed," the Ayatollah explained.

affaredin, to bring his father's two murderers to justice.

One of the two died naturally before the authorities could act, but the other was beheaded in Tehran in artillery square — known since the 1979 revolution as Imam Khomeini Square.

Occasionally breaking off to refer to notes among a collection of handwritten scraps tucked into an envelope, the ayatollah said both he and Ruhollah received their first lessons in reading and writing from private teachers at home in Khomein.

Clever student

"He used to outdo all his playmates," he said of his brother.

Ruhollah stayed in Khomein while his two elder brothers, Pasandideh himself and the late Ayatollah Nouredin Hindi, went to a theological school in Isfahan.

When Pasandideh returned some seven years later, he taught his young brother basic lessons in Arabic grammar, logic, philosophy, and the art of writing Persian and Arabic script.

Ruhollah then left home to study first in the western town of

Arak and then in Qom, where the Muslim theological schools were revived there in 1921-22.

Pasandideh said he had been a follower of his brother during the 20 years when Ruhollah was campaigning against the shah.

He took an active part in politics, writing to government ministers on various issues and interceding for the release of clergymen jailed by the authorities, he said.

Conflict with the government combined with bureaucratic eccentricity resulted in Pasandideh and his two brothers having three different surnames.

In 1925-26 the government of Reza Shah, father of the man ousted in 1979, set up a national register and for the first time instructed families to decide on a surname.

Pasandideh, then head of the family, decided that he and his brother Nouredin should take the surname Hindi, meaning "Indian", as the family had originally come from Kashmir.

But the local official in Khomein insisted that no two families in Iran could share the same name. So Pasandideh took the pre-

caution of registering his brother Ruhollah with an alternative surname, Mustafavi, which the other two brothers would have assumed if they had been unable to use Hindi.

In practice Ruhollah is known almost universally simply as Khomeini, after his home town.

When Reza Shah moved close to Nazi Germany on the eve of World War II, the government told him the name Hindi indicated pro-British sympathies because of British control of India, the ayatollah said. After some argument, he wrote down a few names and the officials chose Pasandideh, which means "the approved."

Before the end of the war he was accused of anti-Britishness because of protests about the expropriation of supplies by the British army then occupying part of Iran, and he continued to have trouble with the authorities.

"I was never imprisoned, but I was exiled from one city to another," he said.

"We had many eventful affairs, and then they exiled the gentleman (Ayatollah Khomeini) and everyone knows the story..."

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz	06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Breakthrough
MAIN CHANNEL	06:45 Financial News 06:45 Reflections
17:30 Koran	07:00 World News 07:00 24 Hours News
17:45 Cartoons	07:05 Summary 07:30 Vietnamese Night 07:45
18:10 Children's Programme	The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk
18:35 The World We Live In	08:30 Caught in the Act 09:00 World
19:00 Programmes Review	News 09:00 24 Hours News Summary
19:10 Local Programme on Sport	09:30 The Cambridge Bulletin 09:45
20:00 News in Arabic	Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09
20:30 Local Series	Reflexio 10:15 Pied Piper 10:30 Detective
21:30 Local Programme from the Jerash Festival	11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today
22:10 Local Programme from the Jerash Festival	11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 12:00 Discovery 12:30 Musical Milestones 12:30 24 Hours News
23:10 News in Arabic	13:09 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:25 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio News in Arabic 14:05 Modern English Poetry
FOREIGN CHANNEL	14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours News Summary
18:00 French Programme	15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 A Jolly Good Show 16:30 World News 16:30 24 Hours News
19:00 News in French	17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Sir Adrian Boult: A Life of Music 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian
19:30 News in Hebrew	19:15 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:00 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:09 Stock Market Report
20:30 Comedy: Hi De Hi	21:15 Look Ahead 21:45 Newsdesk 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours News Summary 22:30 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 22:45 Modern Russian Writers 23:15 Letters from London
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RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & parity on 9560 KHz, SW	
07:00 Morning Show	
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Obeidat attends ministers meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of the Interior Ahmad Obeidat Sunday night headed a Jordanian delegation to the second session of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, which opened in Baghdad Monday.

The Jordanian team to the three-day meeting includes Civil Defence Director-General Maj.-Gen. Khaled Al-Tarawneh, Lt.-Col. Mohammad Al-Tarazi of the Public Security Directorate and Mr. Mohammad Al-Adwan from the Interior Ministry. In the first session of the council meeting the official Iraqi News Agency reported the vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, as saying Iraq was seeking to extend what he called its aggression to other Arab states, according to the Reuters News Agency.

Ibrahim was addressing interior ministers from a total of 18 Arab countries and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), who are meeting here to discuss, among other things, what the agency called without elaboration "a strategic Arab security project."

Ibrahim said in a speech he read on behalf of President Saddam Hussein: "Iran has chosen Iraq as a springboard to extend its aggression on Gulf and other Arab countries."

Egypt is absent from the meeting after being boycotted by other Arab states over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Syria and Libya, which back Iran in its war with Iraq, are also missing.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi criticised last week's U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement and said it threatened Arab national security.



EVREN IN PETRA: Turkish President Kenan Evren (sixth from right) poses Monday with Court Minister Amer Khamash (to his left) outside the treasury in the ancient Nabatean city (Petra photo)

Malhas: Large attendance at symposium confirms importance of drug industry

By Ara Voskian
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas Monday opened a symposium on "Drug Industry in the Arab World," organised by the Arab Company for Drug Industry and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Dr. Malhas, who was deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, welcomed the participants to the symposium and said that the event came at a time when the Arab World is facing different kinds of challenges and ambitions.

"Therefore with our self-confidence and ability we must stand firmly in the face of these challenges," he said.

He also pointed out the distinctive features of medicine and pharmacy achieved by the Arab civilisation, which is now a controlled industry.

The large number of participants from universities and

companies in the Arab World is an indication of the great importance of this industry, which requires continuous support and care," Dr. Malhas said.

Also during the opening session, Chairman of the Board of ACDIMA Saleh Al-Omar made a speech in which he reviewed the motives behind the establishment of ACDIMA and took a comprehensive look at future requirements and needs in this field throughout the region.

The company's objective is to conduct the entire range of activities in the field of the production and marketing of pharmaceuticals, medical appliances and their accessories.

ACDIMA is a joint Arab company, comprising 15 Arab governments and other participants, which was established by a resolution of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) on March 6, 1976 with a capital of six million Kuwaiti dinars.

The company's main responsibility is planning the development of the Arab drug industry on a national level based on the necessary economic and technical feasibility studies.

After the opening ceremony, the minister opened an exhibition of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment. On display were products manufactured by ACDIMA and other companies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, the occupied territories and Sweden.

After the opening of the exhibition, the conference started its first panel discussion, during which papers were read by speakers from Ministries of Health in several Arab countries including Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Morocco and North and South Yemen.

During the three-day symposium, a wide range of subjects will be discussed including the development and marketing of Arab pharmaceuticals quality control, research, raw materials used by the drug industry, the drug industry's experience in the Arab World and the use of modern technology.

NCC recommends centralisation of agricultural decision-making

By Salameh B. Ne'mat and Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — National Consultative Council (NCC) members Monday called for the concentration of authority in the hands of the ministry of agriculture to facilitate agricultural development.

In a discussion of recommendations submitted by the council's Agricultural Committee concerning agricultural policy in Jordan, several members pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture should assume more authority over other agricultural institutions and departments in Jordan.

Members suggested that agricultural institutions should work under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture. "The existing decentralisation in decision-making hampers agricultural development in Jordan," they said.

As a solution, members recommended the centralisation of decision-making and decentralisation in the implementation of agricultural policies and projects.

The Agricultural Committee recommendations are based on an NCC debate on agriculture that took place last June.

The Ministry of Agriculture then presented a statement on agricultural policy in Jordan and around 26 council members submitted papers in which they elaborated on the problems facing agriculture and came up with suggestions concerning the development of this vital part of the Jordanian economy.

The recommendations of the Agricultural Committee, which were approved by the NCC Monday, concentrated on three areas of agricultural policy: Agricultural laws and regulations; agricultural policies in the exploitation of available development resources, and agricultural policies in development and making available of production elements, and com-

ponents. In its report, the Agricultural Committee pointed out that there are contradictions between the general law relating to agriculture in Jordan and other related laws.

The report cited several examples of such "contradictions" which "negatively affect agricultural development" in Jordan.

For example, item number one of the general agricultural law empowers the Ministry of Agriculture to regulate agricultural production through the application of a certain agricultural pattern and to hold agricultural courses that serve agricultural development.

This article, however, the report noted, has been ineffective since the enactment of the law. Furthermore, it contradicts the powers granted to the chairman of the Jordan Valley Authority, the report added. To resolve such contradictions, the committee called for the formulation of a specialised committee drawing from ministries and institutions concerned with agricultural development to study the laws with the aim of removing such contradictions.

In the area of agricultural policies in the exploitation of available development resources, the committee presented recommendations concerning the development of land, water resources and the labour force.

The committee raised the problem of building on fertile land for commercial and industrial purposes and the danger of the salinisation of fertile land, especially in the Jordan Valley. This problem was brought up

last June by the council members who pointed out that 10 per cent of the land in the valley has been rendered useless due to the rise in the saline content of the water.

In order to secure a better exploitation of the land, the committee suggested the following steps:

- the modernisation of soil survey techniques.
- the formulation of a long term plan to implement the most appropriate programme of land exploitation based on the results of soil survey studies.
- a national programme to stop the desertification of land.
- the application of an agricultural pattern that is consistent with the government's production and marketing policies.

Water resources

The committee also formulated proposals to compensate for the deficiency in water resources and to ensure the proper conservation and usage of the available resources.

The report stated that the average amount of rainfall annually is around six billion cubic metres, while the amount of rain exploited for agriculture is only about 1,100 million cubic metres.

The committee warned that as long as agriculture comes at the end of the list of priorities in relation to water usage, agricultural development will always suffer from a deficiency of water.

Thus the committee called for the building of surface dams where needed, the establishment of stone chains, and engineering constructions to prevent the loss of rain water and to raise the reservoir of subterranean water.

It also suggested the continuation of establishing sewage water refinery projects in order to use the refined water for agriculture and to make a study of subterranean water to decide on the appropriate ways of exploitation.

The third aspect of agricultural resources raised by the committee was that of population in rural areas and the agricultural labour force.

It was pointed out that between 1961 and 1979 the percentage of rural total population declined from 49 per cent to 40 per cent.

This decline was accompanied by a shortage of labour. The percentage of the labour force employed in agriculture dropped from 35 per cent in 1961 to 18 per cent in 1975 and 16.8 per cent in 1980.

This percentage, however, includes the foreign labour in Jordan and does not reflect the true percentage of Jordanian agricultural workers.

Regarding skilled and university graduates that work in agriculture, the report stated that 1,200 agricultural engineers work in the private and public sectors of agriculture.

The report pointed out, however, that 650 agricultural engineers have left the country to seek better work opportunities. Jordan also has 300 vets, half of whom work in the private sector.

To combat the labour shortage in agriculture, the committee adopted several recommendations:

- it called on the government to apply a "comprehensive regional programme" that was started in the Jordan Valley and to implement projects in order to develop other regions of the country.
- to reevaluate the method of employing agricultural skills in cooperation with the professional associations to accelerate the rate of agricultural development.

Development plans

The last point that was discussed by the council was agricultural policies of development. Development plans were the first issue to be raised, if being pointed out that government expenditure in agriculture is lower than is needed to develop the sector.

The percentage of funds allocated to agriculture in the development plans of the years 1973-1975, 1976-1980, 1981-1985 were 7.3 per cent, 5.2 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively.

The percentages are even lower if calculated on the basis of the actual spending of the plans.

Thus, the committee emphasised the importance of increasing funds allocated for agriculture in order to fulfil the needs of agricultural development.

The recommendation presented by the committee to ensure the successful implementation of development plans were:

- the plans should take into consideration all the actual development needs of agricultural projects.
- the goals of the projects should not exceed the limits of the available resources.
- the government should not invest in "productive agricultural" projects apart from those that produce strategic agricultural commodities but do not attract the private sector.
- to raise the percentage of government expenditure in agricultural infrastructure such as the conservation of water, soil and financing.
- to raise the amounts allocated for irrigation in the upland areas and the non-irrigation pasture lands.

The council approved all of the recommendations of the agricultural committee. It will continue to discuss the committee recommendations in the session that will take place after two weeks. Next week the council will discuss the draft budget of 1984.

NCC Speaker Suleiman Arar announced at the end of the session that next week's session will be held on Sunday instead of Monday.

Yarmouk University team attends housing meeting

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University participated in the international conference on the use of low-cost building materials for housing held recently in Nairobi.

The conference debated more than 60 working papers dealing with low-cost building materials in housing one of which was submitted by the university delegation, according to Dr. Mousa Rshaidat who represented the university along with Dr. Assem Bali at the conference.

He added that the conference

also discussed topics related to engineering problem in low-cost housing and their possible solutions, the development of local raw materials in addition to cooperation among the scientific institutions which organised the conference and research centres and universities in developing countries.

Taking part in the conference were 160 researchers and specialists from 46 countries. Dr. Rshaidat added.

Election results released

By Ziad Al Shleeh

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry election results were announced here Sunday evening. Thirty-seven candidates entered the election for membership of the 12-member board of directors, the term of which runs from 1983 to 1987.

Out of 485 who had the right to vote in the election a total of 408 cast their votes in the 12-hour poll, which was held under the auspices of a three-member electoral committee headed by Fu'ad Nafa' as representative of Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour.

Three lists of candidates and five independent ones put their names for the election. The following are the names of those who were successful: Isam Bdeir, Khalidoun Abu Hassan, Abdul Jilal Al Tabba', Mohammad Inbeh, Ma'n Dhebian, Sultan Al Armouti, Fuad Qattan, Taufiq Abu Eitah, Zaid Sha'sha'a, Suleiman Al Baghdadi, Subhi Al Tibi and Mohammad Al Gharaibeh.

The first to cast his vote in the election was Bandar Al Tab'a, the president of the outgoing board.

H-4 wants a hospital, pharmacy and even Jordan TV

By Elia Nasrallah
and Fayed Mahmoud

AMMAN — Would you believe that a Jordanian town lying on the Amman-Baghdad highway close to the Iraqi border has no hospital, no pharmacy, does not receive Jordan Television programmes while its inhabitants do not receive any Jordanian newspaper?

This is the town of H-4 which derives its name from a pumping station originally established on the site of the town 50 years ago by the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC), which operated a pipeline carrying oil from the Iraqi oilfields to Haifa, the Palestinian Mediterranean port from where ships and tankers carried the crude to Europe.

Perhaps, due to its remoteness from Amman nearly 250 kms away, the town is almost cut off from the rest of the country. Had it

not been for the constant flow of lorries and other vehicles which travel between Iraq and Jordan, H-4 would have been totally isolated.

The bedouin tribes of Al Sha'lan inhabit H-4 and its surrounding regions. Their tents spreading far beyond the three-square kilometre area of the township.

According to the mayor, Mustafa Khalaf Abu Aqula, the inhabitants of H-4 number about 3,000, almost all of whom earn their living from trade or in offering services to travellers along the Amman-Baghdad route that penetrates the township.

He said H-4 has one secondary school for boys and one preparatory school for girls both run by the Ministry of Education, but there are no bookshops whatsoever and the inhabitants do not read newspapers.

In an interview, Mr. Abu Aqula

said that the township has a five-member municipal council which runs its affairs, mostly concerning the water supply and electricity.

He said: "The municipality was established in 1971 when a three kilometre water network was laid to draw water from Maqat — a project carried out and controlled by the Water Supply Corporation (WSC)."

The water is sufficient for the inhabitants' needs.

The WSC has set up a water tower in H-4 but the main pipe reaching the tower is made of plastic and is often damaged with the water supply being cut off sometimes from two to seven days at a stretch both in winter and in summer.

The governor has promised to have a new metal pipe laid connecting the tower soon, Mr. Abu Aqula said.

To find out about the town's

electric power we turned to local electrician Ahmad Taleb Ghanem who said that in 1974 a power network was set up by the municipality which imported two generators and erected 100 electric posts around the town.

Later however, he continued, it bought two additional generators and added 200 posts to carry overhead cables and wires. At present there are 350 subscribers to the power system which functions both day and night.

The municipality has plans to install 120 additional electric posts carrying 200 lamps to light the main Amman-Baghdad street by night.

Public services

H-4 Mayor Abu Aqula, in describing the current municipal services, said that the municipality owns one refuse truck and employs six cleaners to collect and remove rubbish from all districts. They then dispose of it in outlying areas because there is no incinerator at present.

The municipality has also purchased a special motor for spraying insecticide and has launched a number of campaigns against insects.

The town has a medical centre where one physician and one dentist offer services to the public, but the town does not possess a pharmacy, and medicine has to be purchased when necessary from Maqat, a town lying some 200 kilometres away.

As to the town's achievements under the present council's mandate, Mr. Abu Aqula said the municipality has built the Prince Hassan Mosque with financial help from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

It has also a model boys' school with some help from the Ministry of Education as well as a modern slaughter house and a power house on a 30-dunum land owned by the municipality.

The municipality, he said, has plans to establish an industrial zone, enlarge and asphalt the main Amman-Baghdad highway and build hard shoulders at the side of the road.

When asked to comment on these projects, Mr. Abu Aqula said, "The municipality has acquired a JD 600,000 loan in addition to a JD 16,000 one previously for the construction of a building complex that will include warehouses, a cafe and public lavatories."

The warehouses also contain garages, workshops for carpenters and auto spare parts amongst others. The project is under construction.

The municipality will also implement a project to build pavements for the three-kilometre road as it passes through the city with an island in the middle and will also set up electric street lamps along the road.

As the municipality lacks sufficient funds to enlarge and asphalt the Amman-Baghdad road, it hopes to obtain financial assistance from the Ministry of Public Works to carry out the project.

The municipality also plans to extend this road by at least four kilometres.

The H-4 municipal council has asked us to submit, on its behalf, the following requests to the authorities:

— The town lacks a hospital, the nearest hospital being 200 kms away in Maqat.

— There is no "supply controller" and the town is desperately in need of one in view of its important trading centre as it lies close to the Iraqi border.

— The town needs school premises for girls, the present one being in a dilapidated condition having been built more than 50 years ago by the Iraq Petroleum Company.

— The inhabitants would like to receive Jordan Television programmes.

Marines may shift positions in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

apparent retaliation for the first U.S. air strike against Syrian targets in Lebanon.

Earlier in the day 28 bombers from U.S. aircraft carriers struck at Syrian air defence positions in the central mountains in the first such raid by U.S. warplanes since the Marines came to Lebanon in September last year.

In Sunday night's bombardment of the U.S. post at Beirut airport, Marine spokesman Major Dennis Brooks said two Marines were also wounded.

U.S. protests to Syria

Mr. Weinberger said Monday the U.S. ambassador in Damascus had protested to the Syrian government over the downing of two

American planes, saying Syria had no authority to act against U.S. forces which were in Lebanon at the request of the government there.

U.S. officials said F-14 fighter reconnaissance flights over Lebanon would continue as a measure necessary to protect the U.S. peacekeeping force. They would continue to be protected by A-6 and A-7 ground attack planes.

Moscow calls U.S. raid banditry

(Continued from page 1)

"It is the U.S. that started by striking at Syrian troops," he said.

Gen. Ogarkov said eight Israeli war planes had taken part in the raid along with 24 U.S. aircraft.

Mr. Zamyatin, chief of the Communist Party's international information department, said

Moscow "will continue to render assistance to those who are waging a struggle against U.S. and Israeli aggression" in the region.

In Peking, China opposes the U.S. and Israeli raids on Syrian and Palestinian military positions in Lebanon, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

quoting the spokesman as saying: "U.S. and Israeli air raids on Syrian and Palestinian positions in the past few days have further intensified the tense situation in the Middle East."

Replying to a reporter's question, the spokesman said: "We strongly denounce those raids."

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Arabs remain the losers

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Joint strategy in practice

Al Dustour: Only the beginning

Sawt Al Shaab: A job for the U.N.

THE AMERICAN and Israeli air raids on Syrian targets in Lebanon come amidst an escalation of tension and as a prelude to more serious events that are about to take place in the region. U.S. military involvement in the events in Lebanon, although being carried out under the pretext of countering Soviet presence in Syria, can never solve this region's issues and end its conflict. It can only lead to further violence and counter violence and eventually result in super power rivalry in the Middle East arena. The concerted U.S.-Israeli air raids on Syrian targets translate into practice the newly concluded agreement between Washington and Tel Aviv on military and strategic cooperation.

This agreement undermines the role of the U.S. as a peace mediator and exposes the objectives of its ally Israel, which is intent on expanding itself at the expense of the Arabs. It seems that the U.S. has now opted to support the aggressor and ignore calls to safeguard the stability and peace in this region. If the people of this region are at the moment unable to do anything to rectify the situation, then perhaps the United Nations and other peace-loving states can take steps to defuse tension and save the region from further catastrophes.

By Rami G. Khouri

however, out of the question, mainly because the Soviets have learned well the lesson that if we Arabs cannot fight our own battles, Moscow can only lose by trying to fight them for us.

The likelihood, in my view, is that the present level of American-Syrian clashes will continue and even escalate, and at various points, when the plot starts to get a bit boring, and the roar of those big guns on the deck of the New Jersey gets to be old hand, the Israelis and the pro-Syrian Lebanese factions will move in and out of the picture.

The more interesting aspect of the current season's offering of Middle Eastern clashes is that the Holy Land is the slow shift that the Americans have made in their policy in Lebanon during the past three months. I think it is worth examining in some depth, and keeping in the back of our minds as a relevant backdrop to the daily news of battles here and there.

There are too many different things taking place simultaneously in the Middle East now to make any definitive judgements about the right or wrong of American policy. But what are the trends? They seem to be as follows:

1. The United States has taken it upon itself to single-handedly confront the Syrian dominance of Lebanon, based on the American perception of the Syrians as the obstacle to the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty. This has pushed the Americans beyond being peace-keepers in the greater Beirut area, to launching attacks against Syrian targets.
2. The United States has redefined its role in Lebanon. Where the presence of the Marines was originally intended only to restore security in Beirut and help the Lebanese government assume authority in the entire country, the role of the Marines has been redefined in three months to become an important element in the American determination to confront the Soviet penetration of the area. A penetration that is seen by Washington to pass almost entirely through Syria. The Marines are one element in this American vision of an anti-communist mission. The enormous American fleet near Beirut is another. The third is,
3. The recent reaffirmation by the American political leadership that strong American-

Israeli ties are the cornerstone of long-term American national objectives in the Middle East. This has been taken from the level of principle to the level of practice by the agreements and joint committees that came out of the meetings in Washington last week between the American and Israeli leaderships. Many of the specific results of this rejuvenated American-Israeli relationship remain to be seen, though the tone and implications of the meetings in Washington last week are loud and clear.

I think the Washington discussions, in the long run, will prove much more significant than the American-Soviet American-Soviet clashes taking place these days in Lebanon. It is easy to explain away the warm American-Israeli axis by electoral considerations in the United States, but I think this is not the case.

There are a string of fundamental assumptions that have remained firmly at the heart of American policy in the Middle East during the past decade, and we are seeing these assumptions activated yet again. Unfortunately, I think the assumptions are wrong, and therefore there appear to be no solid jud-

ications that we can expect lifting of the present gloom that dominates the area.

These assumptions date originally from the Kissinger era and there are five that stand out: a) keeping Israel financially and militarily strong; will give the Israelis the self-confidence to make concessions on the Palestine issue and eventually withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza; b) the Palestinians will eventually realise that their goal of statehood, or self-determination is not realistic, and will settle for a lower degree of "autonomy"; c) the Arab "moderates" (ie. Saudi Arabia and Jordan, above all) have no option except to maintain a pro-western attitude that sees the United States as their ultimate ally in countering Soviet influence and indigenous radicalism in the region; d) confronting-Soviet Arab allies, such as the Syrians and Libyans, with American military force if necessary, will show the Arabs that courting the Soviets is a losing proposition; and, e) only a soft approach to Israel on such key issues as settlements in occupied Arab lands and withdrawal from Lebanon can bring about a conciliatory Israeli attitude.

aeli policy, while strong-arm American pressure on Israel would be counter-productive. Every one of these policies is enshrined in last week's American-Israeli agreements, and we in the Arab World need no further proof that the chaos and conflicts within the Arab camp will only be reciprocated by a further tightening of American-Israeli bonds, strategic or otherwise.

It is naive to think that the Americans will see the light and suddenly change their policy. The depressing reality is that with every new season, Israeli resolve is heightened, Israeli transformation of occupied Arab lands is accelerated, American structural support of the Israeli economy and military is enhanced, Soviet penetration in the Middle East is averted, the despair of Arab moderates is aggravated and the hopelessness of a drifting, directionless Arab World is emphasised.

If, in such circumstances, Donald Duck does descend upon the area next week, he is likely to quack with an Arabic accent and remind us that cartoons are offered on a non-stop basis only when the audience keeps applauding and asking for more of the same.



'Desaparecidos' tragedy still an urgency to Argentine human rights campaigners

By Gilles Trequesser
Reuter

The congress due to convene next month.

Mr. Alfonsín, who will take over from the military on Dec. 10, has pledged to investigate the fate of the disappeared.

But some human rights activists have expressed misgivings at the Radicals' apparent intention to move the issue from the political sphere to the courts.

Mr. Alfonsín has also promised to repeal "self-amnesty" law passed by the junta for members of the security forces and their civilian collaborators who violated human rights during the ruthless anti-guerrilla campaign.

But lawyers reckon congress will face legal complications in trying to declare the law anti-constitutional or judicially void and say the process could take up to two years.

Mr. Alfonsín's suggestion that courts should consider three degrees of responsibility, punishing hardest the senior officers responsible for ordering torture, is questioned in human rights circles.

A group called "The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" say they disagree with the idea. The Mothers were the first to denounce the mass disappearance in 1977 and have demonstrated silently in front of government house every Thursday since then.

Four days after the Radicals' landslide victory over their Peronist rivals, the mothers marched around the May Square vowing to continue until they knew the fate of their missing children.

"We intend to keep on with this permanent denunciation no matter who is occupying the Casa Rosada [government house]," said their president, Hebe de Bonaffini.

Mr. Conte Macdonnell said that on the first day of congress, he would propose the establishment of a bicameral commission "to investigate the military dictatorship's criminal action" and present an official report.

The commission would be aided in its probe by human rights groups who have started to feed a computer from their files.

"A total of 7,500 cases are known so far following denunciations to judges or human rights groups and more are coming in now that people are beginning to overcome their fear," one lawyer said.

The junta said last May that it had no information on the missing people and that those not living abroad or hiding in Argentina were "considered dead for judicial or administrative purposes."

Its statement provoked an outcry here and abroad and clashed

with evidence from recently released political prisoners who say concentration camps still exist in Patagonia in the far south.

The issue of the disappeared touches a raw nerve in the armed forces and will determine whether Argentina's 28 million inhabitants can regain faith in their rulers, diplomats say.

"Human rights, more than the external debt or the economic crisis, is the key question in Argentina today," Mr. Conte Macdonnell told Reuters. "What will happen after Dec. 10 is the test. A new era in political life here depends on a swift and just solution to that tragedy."

Mr. Conte Macdonnell said that in terms of repression nothing in the Western world in the last 40 years could compare with what happened in Argentina.

Lawyers predict another grim secret of the junta is about to burst into public -- the fate of at least 100 children born in jail.

Most of them were believed to have been adopted by military families and a strenuous check of adoption registers seemed the only way to trace them, said lawyer Christine Roux-Dufour.

"The military will be hard pressed to explain why these children disappeared. They could not really qualify as subversives," she said.

LETTERS

Keep the healthy sign going

To the Editor:

Whatever people may feel about Randa Habib's column, the rights or wrongs of self-criticism, or the need for flag-waving to bolster one's local image, all must agree that the consequences of her column are most encouraging.

As a columnist, she is prompting reactions, which sometimes support her statements, or as in the case of her idea for "billboards from Amman to the Q.A. Airport" brought absolute, sound common-sense disagreement. Thank God for nature lovers and environmentalists. In any event, Ms. Habib's column stimulates reaction and comment, which can only be a healthy, rewarding result and a good sign.

My recent recollections of Ms. Habib's remarks about school systems and inflated fees, parentally-dominated children's parties, dirty coffee pots and hostelry prices, competitive dressing at any price, and so on, merely confirm that someone is serving the community to show that Jordan is not uniquely isolated from the problems of social change.

Dirty coffee pots; inflated prices; car parking problems, bad driving, impudent young men, fatal road accidents, etc., are all synonymous of a society that is subject to the influences of jet age travel, international television "soap" operas, and the internationalisation of residents who choose to be educated, employed or entertained outside of the local environment from time to time.

Even the reporting of Royal Tours, International State Occasions, sporting events and natural disasters all serve to influence the TV viewers. Jordan is taking a predominant role at the gateway between East and West and in its location in the corridor between Europe and the East, it has to cope with wider influences.

Let your columnists flourish, even when they regrettably compare their work with that of the skilled and dedicated surgeons. Open your columns to your readers; let them speak out, freely, because even anger expressed in the written word is far less dangerous and is more acceptable than the law breakers and those who will try to impose their will (and their terror) upon society by force or other illegalities.

My own major concern right now would be to hear more discussion about the frightening level of road accidents and fatalities that are recorded in Jordan. I would want to ask questions like: When are the police, as administrators of the law, going to observe the laws themselves? Don't they know that restriction signs are aimed at them, too? As law enforcement officers, they are not above the law. They should not drive against traffic flow on dual carriageways and in one-way streets; they should not "shoot" red lights; they should not park in "no parking" areas; they should not exceed speed limits — and when they decide to undertake traffic-control duties, could they not don the bright red or yellow garb amongst the jay walkers, that continue to be a terrifying aspect of daily motorising?

If the law officers start to observe the laws, maybe the motorists will begin to follow their "good" example.

Then, what is being done to restrict commercial users? Does a restriction of two persons in the cab of a pick-up truck entitle the driver to carry his family, friends and relatives in the box at the back? A tyre "blow out" can have devastating consequences — as I know from a witnessed event.

Does a manufacturer's stated tonnage limit of say "50 tons" entitle the haulier to transport 140 tons? What happens when the brakes overheat and fail to hold the charging missile?

When I read that poor road surfaces are considered to be a cause of accidents, I am reminded of an American TV series, very long ago, when the presenter said "it isn't the car that kills, it's the driver!" According to Motoring Manuals, the driver is required to drive within the prevailing conditions, which is not only referring to deteriorating weather — it means road surfaces, too.

My wife, an excellent driver, with about 400,000 kilometres clocked-up, will not drive in Jordan for one simple reason. She has little faith in other road "abusers". So Ms. Habib, and other Jordan Times columnists, keep the comments coming — it's a very healthy occupation.

P.J. Brereton,
P.O. Box 80,
Irbid, Jordan.

U.S. Democratic contenders getting at each other's throat

By David Nagy
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Opposition presidential contenders are starting to go for each other's throats despite a drive among Democrats for election year unity against President Reagan and his Republicans.

polls and election year just five weeks away, ex-astronaut Senator John Glenn of Ohio, jolted by a sudden drop in his own opinion poll ratings, is daily attacking Democratic front-runner Walter Mondale in their struggle for the party's 1984 presidential nomination.

Mr. Mondale, the liberal ex-vice president, scoffs at Mr. Kennedy's "desperation tactics" and this centrist, pro-defence record.

Party officials insist this is just typical sparring among the always split Democrats and will not ruin the drive for harmony.

"These guys have a lot of philosophical differences. That's the game and we just have to play it," one Democratic party insider said.

Even so, the spectacle of strife among Democrats is most timely for Mr. Reagan, who is widely expected to run again even though he is delaying any formal announcement until December or January.

The most recent polls have shown a sudden, sharp rise in his ratings, in some cases to their highest point in two years, as the public headed his call for support after the invasion of Grenada and the bombing of a U.S. Marine post in Lebanon.

He has also moved back ahead of both Mr. Mondale and Glenn in presidential preference polls.

It was precisely out of respect for Mr. Reagan's political skills that Democratic leaders had made party unity and a gentlemanly nomination campaign their top priorities for 1984.

The Glenn-Mondale brawl indicates that will not be easy.

Mr. Glenn, who had drawn nearly level with the better organized and better financed Mr. Mondale by early autumn, leapt to the attack recently after one good look at the latest polls.

He trailed Mr. Mondale by 48-20 per cent in the ABC-Washington Post survey, by 40-31 in the Harris and 37-26 in the Gallup.

Black rights leader Jesse Jackson and ex-senator George McGovern are duelling for third in the range of 7-10 per cent.

These findings stirred some gales of humour at Mr. Glenn headquarters. One in-house joke ran: "It's a two-way race... Mondale is

Some blamed all this on the publicity Mr. Mondale got from a recent string of major endorsements and party straw-vote wins.

Others felt Mr. Glenn blundered in an earlier row with Mr. Mondale, when he answered attacks on his own votes for Mr. Reagan's tax-cut and defence-buildup programmes by deriding the economic policies of Mr. Mondale's old boss, ex-president Jimmy Carter.

"The attack on Carter turned [Glenn's] halo down 50 watts," said one Mr. Glenn supporter.

disagrees with the new attack strategy. "It seriously hurt his image as a statesmanlike candidate who is above the usual political gut fighting."

Nonetheless, the senator has shifted from stressing his own patriotic image as a spacer here to calling Mondale an outdated liberal who would weaken U.S. defenses, spend vast sums on social programmes and promise anything to any one.

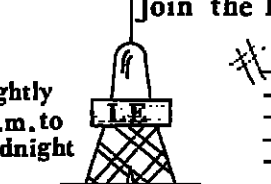
With Mr. Mondale responding in kind to Glenn's attacks, some party regulars fear the two may be embarked on a campaign that could embitter both sides and cri-

Woll in Lila

"We are hopeful that the system will not be too polluted by the Zionist influence and that this case will be heard — and decide on by its merits?," — Arab News, Jeddah.

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SPORTS

Jordanian
NOC to meet
before Dec. 15

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian National Olympic Committee (JNOC) told the Jordanian daily Al Ra'i that JNOC board of directors will meet before Dec. 15 to discuss which individual games Jordan is going to participate in at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Jordan has failed to qualify for any team games.

The Jordanian delegation to the games is expected to comprise of about 55 members, and actual participation in the games will be confined to one or two contenders in athletics, swimming, cycling, wrestling, boxing, archery and probably gymnastics and weightlifting.

The committee will soon issue instructions to all sports federations to hold their qualification contests for selecting athletes to go to Los Angeles, Al Ra'i said.

Lendl beats Cash, revises view
on Australian Davis Cup hopes

MELBOURNE (R) — Ivan Lendl, Czechoslovakia's top men's seed, revised his view of Australia's prospects of winning the Davis Cup tennis final later this month after crushing 18-year-old Victorian Pat Cash in the Australian Open Championships on Monday.

Cash, Australia's outstanding young prospect, managed to take only one more game off Lendl than he did a Wimbledon in June, going down 7-6, 6-3, 6-3 in a fourth-round match.

Generally it was a bad day for Australia with John Fitzgerald, Paul McNamee and Mark Edmondson, the 1976 Australian Open champion, also losing. They were defeats that can have done little for Australia's morale before the Davis Cup final against Swe-

den which will be played here straight after Christmas.

"I always thought that I should beat Australia but after what I've seen today I don't know," said Lendl, whose win over Cash put him into the quarter-finals.

John McEnroe, the American second seed, and third-seeded Swede Mats Wilander also reached the last eight. McEnroe beat compatriot Tim Gullikson 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on an outside court and Wilander put out McNamee 6-4, 6-2, 7-6.

Johan Kriek, the former South African who is now an American citizen, stayed on course to win the title for the third year in a row by beating Britain's John Lloyd 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 to take his place in the quarter-finals.

Martina Navratilova showed no sign of faltering in her bid to regain the women's title as she swamped South Africa's Rosalyn Fairbank 6-2, 6-2 and now faces a quarter-final meeting with Britain's Jo Durie who beat Alycia Molton of the United States 6-1, 7-6.

Wilander said after beating McNamee that he thought he had

played as well as he could on grass although he admitted he was helped by the Australian's reluctance to attack at the net.

Wilander said he was confused by McNamee's tactics at the start but happy that the match was played from the back of the court. "I think we showed today that it is possible to play a clay-court game on grass," Wilander said.

Wally Masur, 20, provided the one bright spot for Australia as he beat eight-seeded Swede Anders Jarryd 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. Ironically, Masur is not in the Australian Davis Cup squad.

Masur now plays McEnroe in the quarter-finals.

Mandlikova goes home

Czech tennis star Hana Mandlikova will return home immediately, after a pulled groin muscle forced her to withdraw from the Australian Open.

Tournament organisers said they were notified formally on Monday that Mandlikova would withdraw from the women's doubles championship, held at Koo-ying, in which she was paired with fellow Czech Helena Sukova.

4 weightlifting
records broken

LANGBATHSEE, Austria (R) — Bulgaria's 16-year-old weightlifting prodigy Naim Sulaimanov set three world records in the bantamweight category (up to 56 kg) at a tournament here at the weekend.

He snatched 130.5 kg, beating his own record set in October by 0.5 kg, jerked 165.5 kg and had a total of 295 kg in the combined, bettering the records of 160 kg and 292.5 kg set by Oksen Mirzoyan of the Soviet Union at this year's World Championships in Moscow.

Another Bulgarian, Zdravko Stoitichkov, jerked 210.5 kg in the middleweight (up to 75 kg) class, beating by 0.5 kg the world record held by compatriot, World Champion Alexander Varbanov.

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Jahangir firm favourite
in World Open Squash final

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Jahangir Khan, the 19-year-old Pakistani who has forgotten what defeat is like, stands poised to win his third successive World Open Squash title here on Tuesday.

Jahangir, unbeaten since April 1981, faces Australian Chris Dittmar, another 19-year-old and the giant-killer of this year's tournament.

But though Dittmar, ranked 13th in the world, has already knocked out three higher-ranked players, he freely admits he has no realistic chance against the brilliant Jahangir.

"Obviously Jahangir is in a different class to the rest of us," Dittmar said. "The main thing for me is to avoid humiliation. It would be great for me to win a game or two."

The fear of humiliation is real enough after Jahangir's 4-0, 9-1, 9-1 annihilation of world number five Gamal Awad of Egypt in 33 minutes in Sunday's semifinal.

Jahangir's mastery of every aspect of the game had the world's leading squash players shaking their heads in dismay. It confirmed their fears that, despite the emergence of a number of outstanding young talents in the

game, the gap between Jahangir and the rest is widening rather than closing.

In his five matches in this tournament Jahangir has not dropped a game and lost only 30 points.

Dittmar, who was not even expected to make the quarter-finals, beat world number four Hiddy Jahan of Britain, 11th-ranked Magsood Ahmed of Pakistan and New Zealander Stuart Davenport, sixth in the world, to get this far.

He is the third Australian to face Jahangir in a World Open

final. Geoff Hunt, former world champion and the last man to beat Jahangir, lost to him in the 1981 final in Canada.

Dean Williams, who is coaching Dittmar for Tuesday's match, lost in England last year.

Tuesday's match will be the first final between two teenagers, and the fact that another young player

— 21-year-old Davenport — also reached the semifinals seems to have overturned the traditional theory that squash players peak in their early 30s.

Wales to play Yugoslavia
in European Soccer Championship

CARDIFF (R) — Leighton James, who has missed eight international games since gaining his 54th cap against England last February, has been recalled by Wales for the vital European Soccer Championship match against Yugoslavia here on Dec. 14.

The 30-year-old winger's recent form for English club Sunderland has earned him the chance to help Wales become the only British side to win a place in the finals in France next year.

Watford's Kenny Jackett is also back in the 16-strong squad after recovering from an injury which forced him to miss last month's 1-0 group four defeat in Bulgaria.

Wales head the group by one point from Yugoslavia but complete their programme of matches against their visitors on Dec. 14. Yugoslavia finish with a home match against Bulgaria.

Larry Holmes is boxing's angry man

NEW YORK (R) — He has banked millions of dollars, surrounded his family with many of

wealth's trappings, shows no effects of 45 professional fights and has finally earned respect as an outstanding champion.

But at the age of 34, World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes has become an angry man, at war with the sport's administrators whom he feels have done him wrong.

Denying a report of his impending retirement, Holmes says he plans to fight World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa in a unification bout. But Holmes is committed to defend his title against top-ranked contender Greg Page — if he refuses, the WBC has said it will strip him of his title.

That threat, however, may not deter Holmes from meeting Coetzee in South Africa in a bout that could earn him as much as \$25

million.

Holmes, who has openly condemned black boxers for fighting in South Africa in the past, intimated a change of mind when he said: "For \$100m, I would fight Coetzee in his own house."

"But first I would want to make sure we would all give something back to the people. I don't trust them (the South African government), but I would do it," he added.

Cedric Kushner, a South African who lives in New York and has promotional ties with Coetzee, has said he planned to try to arrange a Holmes-Coetzee clash, though not necessarily in South Africa.

"But two days ago Kushner said Holmes' insistence on a \$100m purse was 'totally unrealistic' and that he and promoter Don King would not consider Holmes as an opponent for Coetzee until after he had fought Page.

"Holmes doesn't figure in the

picture anymore," Kushner told Reuters. "I'm not in the business of trying to make him rich."

But Richard Lovell, a spokesman for Holmes, said he was convinced the fight would go ahead and added: "We've already received an offer from South Africa, offering Larry \$100m."

Stripping Holmes of the WBC title is not likely to have any bearing on the fight, since the boxing public is certain to regard the winner as the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

It would also serve to strengthen the stature of the newly-formed International Boxing Federation — which would probably sanction the bout — and which many observers believe will ultimately gain credence as the sport's major governing body.

Holmes' change of heart about fighting in South Africa may be due to his trainer Eddie Futch, who has travelled to the republic with several fighters.

"I think a black fighter can accomplish something by fighting in South Africa," said Futch. "But if you even consider it, you're thought of as a traitor."

Holmes feels the WBC betrayed him by refusing to sanction his fight with Marvin Frazier two weeks ago. "I've been their champion for 5½ years and they treat me like dirt," he said. "But I don't need the WBC or the WBA. The people know who the real heavyweight champion is — Larry Holmes."

World Cup draw
to be made
Wednesday

ZURICH (R) — Performances in the 1982 World Cup and the current European Championship will decide the seedings of the qualifying groups for the 1986 World Cup finals, a European Football Union (UEFA) source said on Monday.

The qualifying draw will be made here on Wednesday and European members of the 1986 World Cup Organising Committee were meeting here to discuss plans for the European groups.

The 11 European members will submit their proposals to the 23-man World Cup Organising Committee which meets on Tuesday under the chairmanship of FIFA Vice-President Hermann Neuberger.

Reigning World Champions Italy qualify automatically for the 1986 finals in Mexico, leaving the other 32 European entrants to vie for the remaining 13 places allotted to Europe.

They are likely to be drawn in seven qualifying groups, with the countries split into five seeding categories — strongest, second-strongest, medium, weak, weakest. Seedings would be based on performances in the qualifying rounds and finals of the 1982 World Cup in Spain and the current European Championship, the source said.

Before the Frazier fight, Holmes accused King of withholding \$15m of his purse money in recent years.

"I made \$55m, but only got about 40 because of Don King," he said.

Much of Holmes' bitterness stems from what he feels has been grudging, and belated, recognition by the boxing establishment and public.

"I don't know what I have to do," he said after stopping Frazier in the first round of their non-title bout. "They say I keep ducking people, but I've fought everyone."

Holmes had vowed earlier this year to retire by Christmas. But now, describing himself as a young 34, he has refused to say whether the Coetzee fight will be his last.

Though he lacks boxing skills, many ring observers believe Coetzee would have a chance against Holmes because of his punching power.

Yet Holmes has had more difficulty with boxers, such as Ken Norton and Tim Witherspoon, than with punchers. For one thing, like Muhammad Ali, Holmes has demonstrated that perhaps his most notable attribute is his ability to take a punch.

Some observers believe Holmes will not retire until he is convinced he has been recognised as a great — not merely an outstanding — champion. But such recognition may never come.

SECRETARY REQUIRED

A foreign Construction Co. is in need of a full-time secretary, who is fluent in Arabic and English, can type English and operate telex — 1 year of experience is required.

For interview, please bring C.V. (duringg 7:30-17:00 p.m.) to Ssangyong Construction Co. Ltd., Jabal Al Hussein, 2 Blocks south of Ministry of Interior Circle, in front of Al-Amal Kindergarten School.

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
TENDER No. 41/83
FOR THE SUPPLY OF TWENTY
PACKAGE SUBSTATIONS

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the availability of tender documents for tender No. 41/83 for the supply of twenty package substations.

One set of tender documents can be collected from the JEA main building between the 6th and the 7th Circles - Jabal Amman - against a non-refundable payment of JD 15 for one copy of tender documents.

JEA is prepared to send tender documents to contractors outside Jordan by airmail against the payment of the due fees as shown above.

The last date for receiving offers on this tender will be at 12.00 noon Saturday 14th January 1984. They should be submitted to the secretary of the tendering committee at the above address, offers should be accompanied by a bid bonds equal to five per cent of the tender price.

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Call Tel: 24556 or 25145 Amman.

Note: Please do not discuss the rent before viewing the apartment.

Alitalia new schedule starting 1st of Nov.

	Departure Amman	Arrival Rome
Wednesday	10.55 a.m.	4.00 p.m.
Sunday	10.55 a.m.	4.00 p.m.

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Iran repeats demand for \$5 oil price raise

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi Monday reaffirmed that Iran's priority at this week's OPEC meeting in Geneva was to secure a \$5 increase in the group's benchmark oil price to \$34 a barrel.

Tehran radio quoted Mr. Gharazi as making the statement just before leaving for Geneva to take part in the OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) conference, which begins on Wednesday.

"Our first and foremost issue at the OPEC conference is to object to the base price of \$29 and to restore it to the previous \$34," it quoted him as saying.

Iran wants to reverse the unprecedented \$5 a barrel price cut which OPEC agreed in March this year as part of a plan to counter a glut of oil on world markets. Mr. Gharazi told a news conference on Saturday that if OPEC kept to its agreed output ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day (b/d) the international market would bear the price rise Iran was recommending.

Disunity could lower prices

Meanwhile, any lack of resolve or unity among OPEC oil ministers could depress demand for OPEC oil and threaten another drop in oil prices, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The Nicosia-based oil and finance newsletter said world oil market operators would obviously base their short-term price expectation on what happens at the Geneva meeting.

If OPEC reaffirms its 17.5 million b/d output ceiling and \$29 marker price, buyers would conclude that the price structure was in no danger and that only normal drawing on oil stocks in the first quarter of 1984 was in order.

But any disarray among the 13 oil ministers indicating the possibility of a threat to the price could result in destocking of as much as 3 to 4 million b/d, it said.

This, combined with a mild winter, could push demand for OPEC crude to as low as 16 million b/d, resulting in pressure for lower North Sea oil prices and subsequently for a cut in OPEC tariffs, MEES said.

The newsletter said indications that some OPEC members want higher production quotas were disturbing. Iran, Iraq, Venezuela and Indonesia have all indicated they want bigger quotas, while Nigerian officials say the issue has been discussed in Lagos.

"If renewed haggling over relative market shares between the OPEC members leads to lack of agreement in Geneva, or to a mere lip-service to the status quo that is half-hearted and lacking in credibility, then the outlook could become very ominous indeed," MEES said.

MEES said the weather could be crucial for OPEC, with the difference between a mild and severe winter representing extra oil demand of up to two million b/d.

The possibility of an Iraqi attack on Iran's Kharg island oil export terminal was the other big imponderable overhanging the oil market, it added.

Firms battle to control Australian brewery

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia's biggest agricultural company, Elders Ltd. Monday joined the battle for control of Carlton and United Breweries (CUB), producer of festers-lager, buying almost 35 million dollars (\$32 million) worth of CUB shares.

The move by Elders, which is 49 per cent owned by CUB, was aimed at protecting itself from a partial bid for CUB launched by the Sydney-based investment company Industrial Equity on Nov. 30.

It takes Elders' holding in CUB to 8.5 per cent. Elders' valuation of each CUB share at 3.60 dollars makes the company worth about 928 million dollars (\$844 million) and compares with the 3.30 dollars offered by Industrial Equity in its initial bid last week.

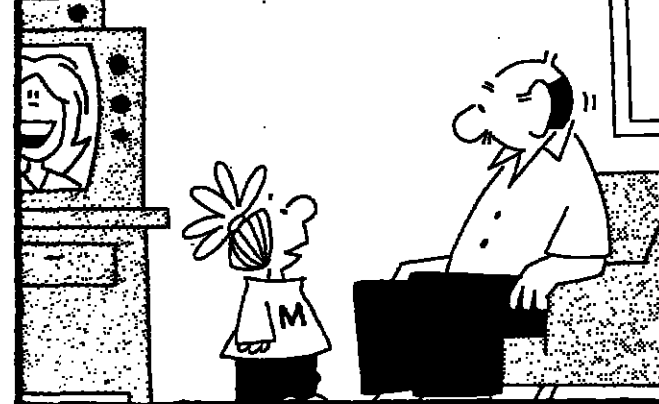
CUB directors advised shareholders to take no action pending reports from independent valuers.

Elders chairman Sir Ian McLennan said if his company's bid succeeded it would mean the merger of two of Australia's largest and most successful public companies.

Elders' interests include agriculture, food, finance, merchant banking, wool exporting, property, oil and gas, while CUB controls almost 50 per cent of Australian beer sales.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

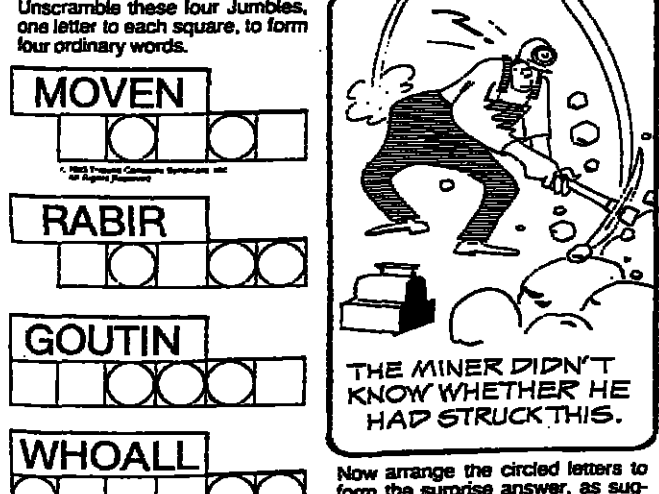
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"How come the people who yell "Ring around the collar" never get punched in the mouth?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAPOR ELITE THORAX CIPHER

Answer: "Is it going to be a local or a general anesthetic?" — "YOU CAN HAVE EITHER"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti fund extends \$32m loans

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has approved 3 loans worth nearly \$32 million for projects in the Central African Republic, Burundi and South Yemen. The Central African Republic will benefit from a \$5.81 million loan towards a \$48 million road restoration and maintenance project. A \$14.54 million loan has been extended to Burundi to help finance the \$81 million Rwegura hydro-electric project scheduled for completion in 1986. The third loan of \$11.63 million goes to South Yemen to finance 32 per cent of a \$36.54 million agricultural development project in Wadi Hadramawt.

China to establish oil office in Norway

STAVANGER, Norway (R) — The Chinese state oil company plans to set up an office here to follow Norwegian offshore oil activities more closely, the newspaper Stavanger Aftenblad Monday quoted a company official as saying. The official, Deputy Managing Director You Dehua, is leading a Chinese delegation which has visited Statoil, the Norwegian state oil company, for talks about China's own offshore oil exploration.

Food rots in Israeli port slowdown

TEL AVIV (R) — Eight hundred tons of rotting food has been destroyed because of a wildcat slowdown by Israeli port workers, a spokesman for the government marketing corporation Agrexco said Monday. The action, which began last week, has cost farmers about half a million dollars in lost revenues, Mr. Haim Keller said. They want a pay increase, new bonuses and guarantees they will not be laid off. Agriculture Minister Pessah Gruper said it would be a disaster if European buyers were forced to turn to Israel's competitors. Israel was resorting to air freight to take its produce to Europe, Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad said in a radio interview.

Rabat plans to cut dependence on oil

RABAT (R) — Morocco plans to import 350,000 to 400,000 tons of coal next year to reduce its dependence on oil. The weekly bulletin of the Moroccan General Economic Confederation said coal imports were expected to reach 250,000 tons by the end of this year, representing a foreign currency saving of 150 million dirhams (\$20 million). It said energy consumption had risen 2.1 per cent in 1979-82 while local output had fallen 24.2 per cent, mainly caused by a drop in hydro-electric output due to 3 successive droughts. Plans are being implemented to switch from fuel oil to coal at power stations and cement plants while a 10 per cent import duty on coal has been abolished. Morocco produced 706,800 tons of anthracite last year.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. index was up one point at 742.3. Dealers said. Operators were apprehensive following Friday's unexpected large rise in U.S. M1 money supply and on renewed concern over the Middle East situation.

B.P. featured, losing 24p to 392 after news that an Alaskan well being drilled by its subsidiary, Standard Oil of Ohio, is probably waterbearing. Other oils were mostly easier.

Government bonds fell as much as 1/2 point in reaction to the lower trend in U.S. credit markets. Monday's U.K. producer prices had little impact, dealers added.

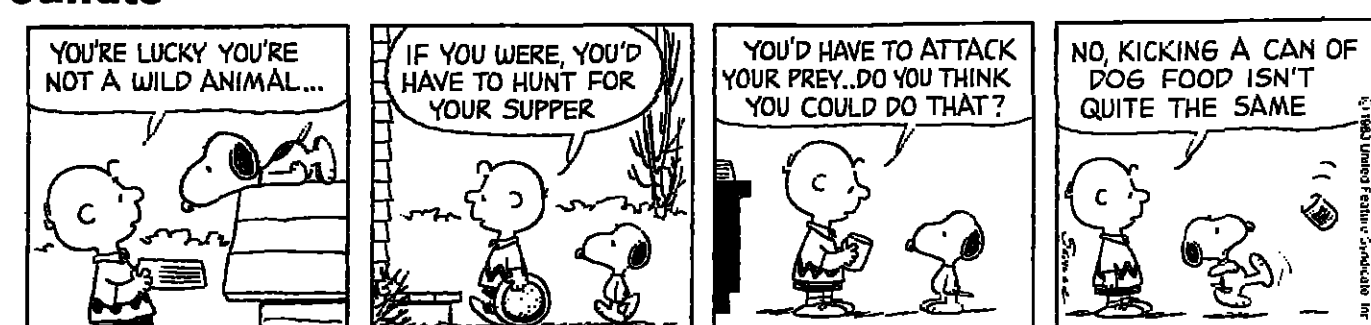
In mixed insurances Eagle Star fluctuated narrowly to close 2p lower at 697 after Allianz Versicherungs A.G. announced it is seeking a meeting with Eagle Star with a view to making an increased offer for the company.

Gold shares gave up early gains as the bullion price fell back below \$400.

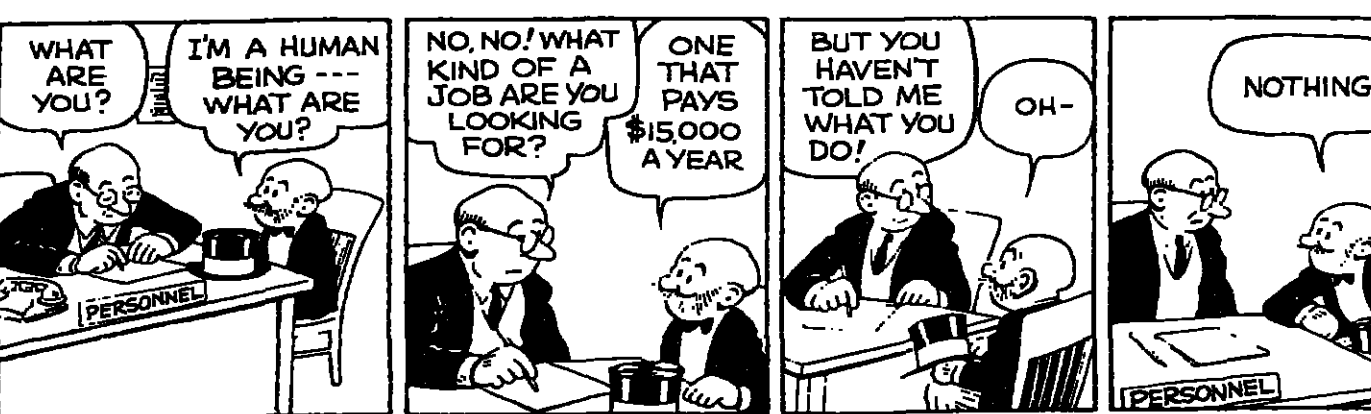
Bowater rose 3p to 242. GEC was 2p higher at 194 but ICI lost 6p to 644 and Glaxo fell 7p to 753.

ICI declined 5p to 51 after adverse press comment over the weekend.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



U.K., France clash at summit

ATHENS (R) — Britain and France clashed Monday over the division of the European Community's (E.C.'s) near-exhausted cash at a summit conference which heard West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl say the group was at a critical crossroads.

A West German spokesman said the 10 leaders were going round in circles as they tried to work out a complex package of reforms essential to ensure the survival of their 25-year-old bloc.

"Fundamental differences remain on every major issue," the spokesman said as the leaders broke off for lunch with their host, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

A French spokesman, who earlier accused British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of rigidity in her search for a solution to British budget overpayments, said Monday French President Francois Mitterrand found the British position in breach of the community's founding Treaty of Rome.

A British spokesman described as extraordinary an intervention by the French president who proposed that Britain be given a budget refund for 1 or 2 years.

Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald later told Reuters: "I cannot see how we can reconcile the position of Mrs. Thatcher with that of Mr. Mitterrand at the moment."

Britain is insisting on a once-and-for-all solution that would prevent future wrangling over budget payments and compensate it for an imbalance in favour of larger farming communities.

The British spokesman said Mr. Mitterrand's proposal showed he was not treating the subject seriously.

The dispute over the British budget was the most serious of a string of policy differences on every major issue under discussion, including highly con-

troversial plans to curb heavy farm spending that has pushed the community towards bankruptcy.

Delegates said Mr. Mitterrand had argued that he could not accept British proposals that breach the community's founding Rome treaty. He would therefore favour a temporary settlement to give Britain short term compensation for overpayments.

The German spokesman said that Mr. Kohl, who agrees with Mrs. Thatcher on the need for strict control of community spending, had nonetheless argued that the community cannot exist if it cannot be financed.

After Sunday's fruitless discussions on ways of curbing farm expenditure, delegates said no one in Monday's talks appeared ready to give way on any of the cherished national positions.

The Greek presidency is expected to present compromise proposals on the two thorniest subjects, farm reform and budgetary control and payments.

A crowd of banner-waving, whistle-blowing Italian and Greek farmers, estimated by police at

5,000, staged a noisy but non-violent demonstration near the conference centre Monday morning to protest against any cuts in community farm spending, especially on Mediterranean produce.

The Italian contingent of about 1,500 protesters was drawn from the country's two major farm unions, Confagricoltura and Coltivatori Diretti, which are worried about the impact of possible common agricultural policy economy measures on wine, olive oil and other sectors.

Earlier, a few dozen Irish farmers held a separate demonstration, mainly on commission proposals to penalise the overproduction of milk.

The leaders held a series of bilateral talks Sunday night and Monday morning to try to narrow wide differences and their spokesmen made optimistic statements about a possible convergence of views.

But delegates at the talks said no package deal was ripe that would satisfy all member-states.

Lebanese pound sinks to all-time low

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound sank to an all-time low Monday on uneasiness over the increasing U.S. involvement in Lebanon as well as the overall strength of the dollar or world foreign exchanges, dealers said.

"Monday's decline was especially due to Sunday's direct American involvement in the war," said Mr. Habib Haddad, chief dealer at Bank Almahrek SAL, referring to the air raids by U.S. jets against Syrian air defences.

The Lebanese pound closed at 5.37 to the dollar, down from Saturday's close of 5.31.

Dealers generally reckon the previous record low against the dollar was 5.34 in June 21 last year, shortly after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Another factor is that workers and companies have stopped bringing dollars into Lebanon, said Mr. Haddad.

"There's not a dime coming in from anywhere," he said. Despite nine years of violence there has usually been a steady flow of workers' remittances to help the pound, which is also backed by hefty gold reserves held by the central bank.

After Israel lifted its siege of Beirut, the Lebanese currency strengthened to 3.75 by the end of last year but since then the continuing violence has steadily pushed it downwards.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4527/37	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2450/53	Canadian dollars
	2.7275/85	West German marks
	3.0530/40	Dutch guilders
	2.1788/98	Swiss francs
	55.36/40	Belgian francs
	8.2920/30	French francs
	1649.50/1650.50	Italian lire
	234.17/27	Japanese yen
	8.0030/60	Swedish crowns
	7.5470/5500	Norwegian crowns
	9.8550/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	402.25/402.75	U.S. dollars

Experts say U.S. banking system sound

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite the collapse of 43 U.S. banks so far this year, industry experts and government officials insist that the American banking system is basically healthy.

An international debt crisis and heavy losses on energy loans threaten some U.S. banks, and many "problem" banks are under special supervision by regulatory officials.

In a series of recent interviews, however, officials at the Federal Reserve Board (Central Bank), the Treasury Department and regulatory agencies joined bankers in dismissing the notion that the high failure rate or problems with foreign and energy loans were warning signals of a financial crisis.

"We think the industry is fundamentally healthy," said a spokesman of the currency Mr. C. Todd Conover, whose treasury department agency supervises the nationally-chartered banks which make up about one third of the country's 14,500 banks.

Mr. Conover has predicted that the number of bank failures this year will rise to more than 50 by the end of December, but he remained optimistic about the future of the industry.

"While the 42 failures in 1982 and the 43 so far this year are up significantly from previous years, we are still only talking about 43 banks out of 14,500," he said.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), a separate agency that insures deposits up to \$100,000 at nearly all of the nation's banks, has about 600 banks on its so-called problem list for extra supervision.

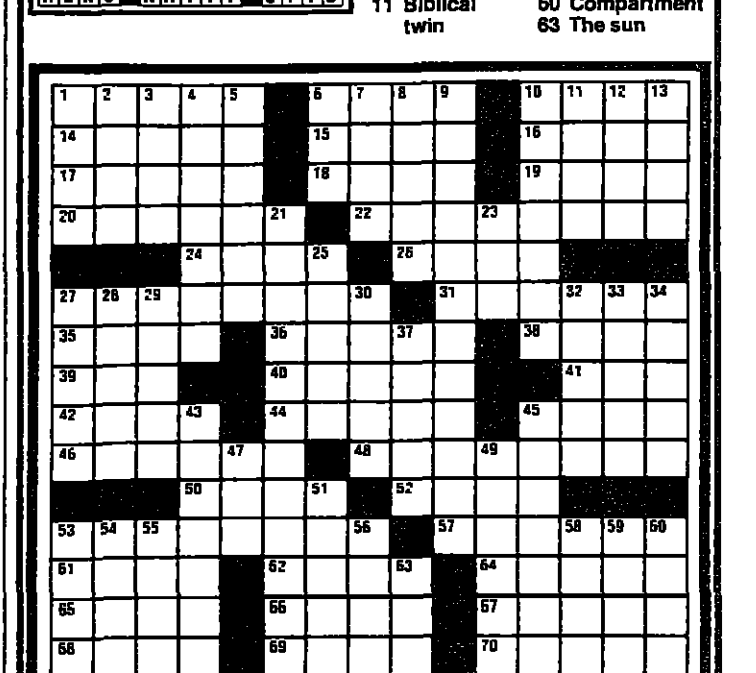
But both officials and private bankers said the relatively high number of failures and problem banks was a temporary phenomenon reflecting the effects of long recession.

HOROSCOPE not received

THE Daily Crossword by Barbara J. Weakley

ACROSS	35 Periods of time	52 Handout of principle	12 "It's—to tell a lie"
1 Class	36 Opera by Gounod	57 Scandinavian	13 Pre-Easter period
6 Door fastener	38 Gauzy material	61 King of Norway	21 The act of taking
10 Authentic (listen)	39 Dress stone	62 Egyptian nature goddess	23 Signal
15 Above	40 Gandhi's land	64 Net	25 Intended
16 Latin being	41 Crew members	65 Ballet position	27 Jeans
17 Bart or Brenda	42 "—do any thing—"	66 Flood city	28 Heath
18 Jade	44 Begin	67 Pittsburgh commodity	29 Infidel
19 Conduit	45 Matador's foe	68 To—his own	30 African region
20 Alveolus	46 Lunatic	69 Dickens character	32 Discharge from the military, for short
22 Mark down	48 Fellowman	70 Sing, Swiss style	33 January: Sp.
24 Particle	50 Certain tide		34 Contributor
26 Vendetta			37 Fathered
27 Gets off at the airport			43 Biblical land
31 Had a craving for			45 Upon that

DOWN	1 Spanish house	47 Bronze	49 Sloop
2 Against	3 Cauterize	51 Antiquated	53 English poet
4 Ankles bones	5 Corrigenda	54 — podrida	55 Secular
5 Fiery	7 Glutinous	56 Little of a letter	58 Perished
6 Fine line of a brook	8 Fine line of a letter	59 Arrow	60 Compartment
9 The act of giving	10 Make over	61 Biblical twin	63 The sun



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World

Social Democrat sweeps to election victory in Venezuela

CARACAS (R) — Opposition candidate Jaime Lusinchi, a Social Democrat, swept to victory in presidential elections Monday with what looked like one of the biggest margins in Venezuela's history.

Mr. Lusinchi, 59, of the Accion Democratica Party, claimed the presidency on the strength of unofficial computer projections putting at between 13 and 20 per cent his lead over Rafael Caldera of the ruling Christian Democratic Copei Party.

These projections suggest Mr. Lusinchi would have the biggest winning margin recorded in any of the six presidential elections held since democracy was firmly established in Venezuela in 1958.

Mr. Caldera, a 67-year old former president, admitted defeat when the first official results announced still covered only 1,000 votes. "I do not want to delay his triumph any further," he said.

All projections showed the can-

"The economic crisis could not go on any longer," he told reporters.

With Mr. Lusinchi's victory, Accion Democratica sweeps back to power for the fourth time in 25 years of democracy. The result was celebrated with fireworks throughout the country.

Mr. Caldera, who ruled from 1969 to 1974, was making his fifth bid for the presidency and trying to become the first Venezuelan to get a second five-year mandate. Political sources said his defeat cast doubts over his political future.

Man with mission

Venezuela's new president, Jaime Lusinchi, is a man who sees himself with a mission to put the country back on its feet after years of economic gloom.

"I will be taking over a country wracked by economic crisis but we have a programme to tackle the

U.S. freeze movement turns more pragmatic

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (R) — The American nuclear freeze movement has adopted a short-term political strategy for 1984 that is more specific and pragmatic than its earlier plans.

More than 500 delegates agreed at the close of the fourth annual conference of the national nuclear weapons freeze campaign to set up a committee to work for pro-freeze candidates in next year's national elections.

They also demanded that Congress should cut funding for nuclear weapons testing and deployment, breaking with their past call for Congress to pass a non-binding resolution asking President Reagan to negotiate a freeze with the Soviet Union.

The freeze movement devised its latest strategy because many of its members felt the campaign was increasingly being viewed as quixotic.

The new pragmatism was demonstrated by the decisions to focus

Burma prosecution wants murder rap for Koreans

RANGOON (R) — The prosecution demanded Monday that murder charges be brought against two North Koreans accused of responsibility for the bomb blast in Rangoon which killed 21 people including four South Korean cabinet ministers.

Prosecuting counsel Tin Ohn said the act was committed within Burma's territorial jurisdiction. Zin Mo and Kang Min Chul must answer charges under Burmese law which prescribed the death penalty for those convicted of murder, he said.

Charges of attempted murder and possession of arms should also be laid against them, he said.

The two North Koreans were arrested after the bombing at Rangoon's martyrs' mausoleum on Oct. 9.

The court said it would decide Tuesday whether murder charges should be filed against them.

Bokassa sent to France

PARIS (R) — Former Central African dictator Jean Bedel Bokassa arrived in Paris Monday after being expelled from his Ivory Coast exile, the French external relations ministry announced.

The decision to expel the former emperor was taken by Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Bokassa told Reuters last week that Mr. Houphouet-Boigny had prevented his return to the Central African Republic last month, sending commandos to surround his home after hearing

Filipino officer claims he saw gunman kill Aquino

MANILA (R) — A Philippines air force officer told a commission of inquiry Monday he saw a gunman shoot opposition leader Benigno Aquino as he stepped off a plane at Manila Airport in August.

Capt. Llewellyn Kavinta told the commission investigating the killing he saw a man in a blue uniform shoot at the back of Sen. Aquino's head, the Philippines news agency reported.

Police named the alleged assassin as Rolando Galman and said he was a notorious criminal who was dressed in the blue uniform of the airport maintenance crew.

Capt. Kavinta, 36, who headed a team guarding the front part of the plane that brought Sen. Aquino home from three years of self-exile in the United States, said he also saw one of the guards escorting Sen. Aquino parry the assassin's right hand, which held the gun.

Galman was shot dead by security guards immediately after the killing.

President Ferdinand Marcos ordered the inquiry after opposition leaders and others expressed doubts that Galman was the real killer.

In Manila, President Marcos' ruling party apparently succumbed Monday to pressure from the Philippines business community and watered down its proposal on the presidential succession.

Assembly members of the new

Indian minister speaks against Sikh militants

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Home Minister Prakash Chand Sethi said Monday firm steps would be taken to deal with communal violence involving Sikh militants in northern Punjab state.

He issued the warning in parliament after opposition politicians demanded the arrest of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a militant preacher who lives in the precincts of the Sikh golden temple in Amritsar.

Mr. Bhindranwale, who heads hardline Sikhs in Punjab, threatened retaliation against the state's minority Hindus after a Sikh shrine was reportedly set on fire last week in neighbouring Rajasthan state, which has a Hindu majority.

The government last week banned the sale of cassette tapes of Mr. Bhindranwale's speeches which Minister Sethi described as provocative and inflammatory.

Shuttle to probe sun's secrets

HOUSTON (R) — Space shuttle crewmen were planning to probe secrets of the sun Monday, in experiments which scientists say might give them down-to-earth clues to global weather.

The astronauts plan to measure the sun's total radiance. Scientists believe even small ripples in the sun's energy output have large effects on earth's weather.

The six crewmen, in orbit nearly a week, were reported to be in good spirits after fixing several instruments used in experiments in the spacelab research laboratory.

Flight Director John Cox said Sunday night it was the first time during the mission, which began last Monday, that the crew were

not told to watch for problems.

Mr. Cox said, "I would characterize this flight as an outstanding success from both a scientific and (shuttle) standpoint."

Later Monday the crew, including West German physicist Ulf Merbold, were to take part in a three-way conversation with President Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Space agency officials have decided that weather permitting, they will extend the mission by one day until Thursday so more scientific research can be done.

Mr. Cox noted that the latest forecasts indicated weather conditions would be satisfactory on Thursday at the landing site in California.



Yuri Andropov

Andropov reported back in good shape

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Kremlin aide said Monday Soviet President Yuri Andropov was recovering from an ailment and was dealing with state and party affairs.

Speaking at an international press conference, Leonid Zamyatin gave no details of Mr. Andropov's illness but referred to an announcement in October that the president was suffering from a cold.

"Now Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov is recovering," he said, adding: "He is dealing extensively with state and party affairs."

Mr. Zamyatin, head of the Communist Party's international department, did not answer questions about when Mr. Andropov would reappear in public.

The Soviet leader has been absent from the Kremlin since mid-August and missed the annual military parade on Red Square a month ago.

Mr. Zamyatin's remarks were the first official comment on Mr. Andropov's condition since he told Western reporters at a Kremlin rally on Nov. 5 that the 69-year-old party chief was indisposed with a cold.

He did not respond directly Monday to questions about who was in charge of the Soviet national defence committee during Mr. Andropov's illness.

The head of the committee is one of the three posts held by Mr. Andropov along with general secretary of the party and head of state.

Monday morning's press conference, called to present Soviet arguments for leaving the Geneva talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, was also addressed by Soviet chief of staff Nikolai Ogarkov and First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kornienko.

Mr. Kornienko, asked to clarify Moscow's conditions for returning to U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile talks which the Kremlin broke off last month in Geneva, said NATO countries would have to "show readiness to go back to the situation before deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe."

He added: "They must show a readiness which must take the form of a deed."

French left suffers another election loss

VAUHALAN, France (R) — France's ruling coalition of socialists and communists suffered a new setback Sunday night in a local election in this village south of Paris.

The opposition list was elected to the town hall of the 1,800-strong village by 549 votes against 266 for the communist-led list of outgoing Mayor Lucien le Beguec and 270 for a socialist-led list.

The socialists refused to make a common list with the outgoing mayor, who was charged with electoral fraud, and this meant the opposition was virtually certain of winning, commentators said.

Vauhallan is the sixth local election lost by the ruling coalition since the end of the summer. Commentators said these defeats signalled growing disenchantment with government policy.

Ortega offers rebels safe conduct during elections

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega has offered to let most U.S.-backed rebels return to Nicaragua to take part in general elections in 1985.

He announced to the country's legislative council of state decrees offering safe conduct to returning rebels and setting out a programme leading up to elections in 1985.

Safe conduct is offered to rebels fighting the left-wing Sandinist government from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica and to all exiles from Nicaragua.

But three groups are excluded from the offer, which is open until next Feb. 21 and which political sources said could benefit 12,000 rebels.

Those who as national guard officers or security police took part in acts of repression under the late dictator Antonio Somoza, who was overthrown in 1979.

Rebel leaders who had admitted getting foreign support or



German manuscript put up for sale

LONDON (R) — A German medieval manuscript which disappeared for half a century comes up for auction Tuesday and is expected to fetch the highest price ever paid for a book. The lavishly-illustrated book of gospels of Henry the Lion, which came to light only two months ago when it was offered for sale by a mystery owner, may even become the world's most expensive work of art of any kind. Sotheby's auctioneers say. Strong bidding is expected from West German collectors and museums eager to bring home a jewel of German religious art, while American interests like the Getty Museum in Malibu may provide keen competition. Sotheby's predicts the 12th-century book will fetch between £2 million and £4 million (\$3 million and \$6 million).

Soviet Union plans to mass-produce wheelchairs

KALLDORF, West Germany (R) — A West German firm said Monday it will start building the Soviet Union's first mass-production wheelchair factory early next year. A Meyra GMBH company spokesman said Moscow had agreed to pay 80 million marks (\$32 million) for the plant, which will produce 25,000 electric and mechanical wheelchairs a year. He said this would still fail to meet total demand, which he estimated at 20 million. At present the Soviet Union imports nearly all its wheelchairs and they are in very short supply.

Spaniards still debate Franco-era assassination

MADRID (R) — Spaniards are looking back in a searching mood to the assassination 10 years ago this month of Prime Minister Adm. Luis Carrero Blanco, who was blown up in his car on his way home from church.

His death, at the hands of Basque separatist guerrillas, was greeted with widespread relief by a people grown tired of his stern rule.

It appeared to have struck a mortal blow at the dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco, who died two years later.

The killers, hailed as brave men who took up arms against a violent and unforgiving regime, were never brought to trial. They later wrote a book on the subject and their exploits were turned into a film.

Adm. Carrero, an extreme right-winger who fulminated ceaselessly against Marxism and Masonry, was regarded as the embodiment of Francoism and its guarantee of political continuity.

His spectacular death, on Dec. 20, 1973, came to be seen as a turning point, the beginning of the transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Today, Adm. Carrero's death looks very different and many politicians do not believe that it changed history.

Ten years later, guerrillas of the Basque separatist movement ETA are still killing with the same ferocity.

The socialist government's tough interior minister, Jose Barrio, said it was time for the left to reassess the Carrero murder and ETA's role in the anti-Franco movement.

Opposition leader Manuel Fraga, a former Franco minister, doubts whether the murder substantially altered the transition to democracy after Franco's death.

"It would have been much the same," he said in an interview.

He said Adm. Carrero, who was 70 at the time of his death, would have faced the same fate as Carlos Arias Navarro, who replaced him as prime minister and was swept away in the tidal rush for democracy in July 1976.

Important consequences

But Mr. Fraga said the assassination did in other respects have important political consequences.

"It demonstrated above all that the political establishment was totally unprepared for the transition... Spain was suddenly left in the lurch with an 81-year-old head of state and no certain political future," he said.

Santiago Carrillo, ex-leader of the Spanish Communist Party and a veteran of the underground struggle against Gen. Franco, also sought to play down ETA's achievement.

Mr. Carrero had the military behind him," he said.

"I remember shortly after democracy was restored telling a director-general of internal security that without Carrero's death neither of us would be here. He agreed with me."

Mr. Bandres, a lawyer who defended ETA militants at a famous trial in Burgos in 1974, said the guerrilla movement had since destroyed much of its credit.

Only two of the six men accused of carrying out the murder or playing a direct part in it are still believed to be active in the movement and both live abroad. At least one of the six was killed and others have vanished.

There is little in Spain to commemorate the assassination, the first of a European prime minister since Roman Emperor Armand Calinesco was murdered in 1939.

A plaque on the wall of the church marks the spot where Adm. Carrero's car was blown up. Erected a year after he died, it is written in language characteristic of the Franco era.

Traces of red painted graffiti stain the plaque. The text reads: "On this spot Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, president of the government, rendered his final service to the motherland with the sacrifice of his life, the victim of vile aggression."

Thais break world record on vasectomy

BANGKOK (R) — Birth control campaigner Meechai Viravaidya claimed a new world record Monday after organising a nine-hour event in which 1,190 men were vasectomised. Mr. Meechai, who gained fame by dispensing condoms at cocktail parties and public places, said he broke the record he set last year when 719 volunteers had vasectomies to mark the birthday of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Officials of Mr. Meechai's private population and community development association said 50 surgeons carried out the seven-minute snip-and-stitch operations as part of its campaign to reduce local birth rate.

S. African male nurse arrested

PRETORIA (R) — A South African defence force male nurse who defected to Mozambique in May was arrested by military police at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport Sunday, the Defence Force headquarters said Monday. A headquarters statement said Lt. Gerald Andreus Eckert, 24, would be charged with desertion. The statement gave no further details.

Pakistan boots penalty for drugs

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government has approved a law providing a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for drug offences. An official announcement said a decision to increase the maximum term for possessing and trafficking in narcotics and financing the drugs trade was taken last January but the law was approved Sunday by the federal cabinet. Minimum punishment for drugs offences will now be two years imprisonment and up to 30 lashes with a whip. The announcement said.

Stone age village found in China

PEKING (R) — A stone age village up to 6,000 years old has been unearthed on an island off northern China, the New China News Agency said Monday. Archaeologists have found the remains of more than 40 houses and two tombs, each for 30 to 40 people, along with bowls, spinning wheels, knives and fish-hooks, it added. The site, on Dabeshan island off Shandong Province, was inhabited up to the bronze age but was used as a burial ground during the warring states period (475-221 B.C.), it said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ1054 ♥K85 ♦Q9 ♣K86
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♦ Pass
2NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Since partner is a passed hand, his jump in no trump cannot show more than 11-12 points. You have a dead minimum opener, which is balanced to boot. Pass. There is no reason why you should want to advertise a five-card spade suit by bidding again.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ1054 ♥K85 ♦Q9 ♣K86
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♦ Pass
2NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—In terms of high cards, this hand is equivalent to the previous one. But here you have a second suit and a singleton, so this hand is considerably better. Unbalanced hands tend to play better at a suit contract, so probe for your best spot with a rebid of three clubs. Indeed, if partner rebids three spades, we wouldn't criticize a bold push to game.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ8763 ♥72 ♦985 ♣72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♣ Pass
2♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—On this auction, your partner almost surely has a six-card heart suit. Therefore, there is no point to rebidding your spades — you are unlikely to have a better fit and you could have a worse one. Since you have a weak hand and tolerance for partner's suit, you should pass.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK8752 ♥983 ♦6 ♣K106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♣ Pass
2♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Since partner should have a six-card suit on this auction, you have located a fit. There is no need to rebid your spade suit — you cannot play in two suits. We would jump to four hearts. With the singleton diamond upgraded to 3 points, three hearts is a distinct underbid.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♥Q108 ♦AQJ852 ♣K96
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—We are inclined to prefer a raise to two hearts over a rebid of two diamonds. Even though you have a six-card suit, your most likely game is in hearts. Therefore, you should make the most encouraging rebid possible, which is a raise of partner's suit. Had your hearts been weaker, two diamonds would have been the correct rebid.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♥J108 ♦AQJ82 ♣AK94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—In view of partner's response, your hand has improved considerably, so you should plan to bid out your shape. Start with a rebid of two clubs now, then raise hearts at your next turn. That normally shows a 5-4-3-1 pattern and a better-than-minimum opening bid, or a somewhat stronger but more balanced hand. With a minimum you would raise to two hearts at your second turn.

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